Routes to tour in Germany

Tonder
Niebüll
Bredstedt
Husum
Garding
Bad St. Peter-Ording
Friedrichstadt
Heide
Meldorf
Itzehoe
Cuxhaven
Marne
Bremerhaven
Glückstadt
Wilhelmshaven
Stade
Hamburg
Westerstede
Leer
Bremervörde
Oldenburg
Osterholz-Scharmbeck
Nieuweschans
Bad Zwischenahn
Bremen

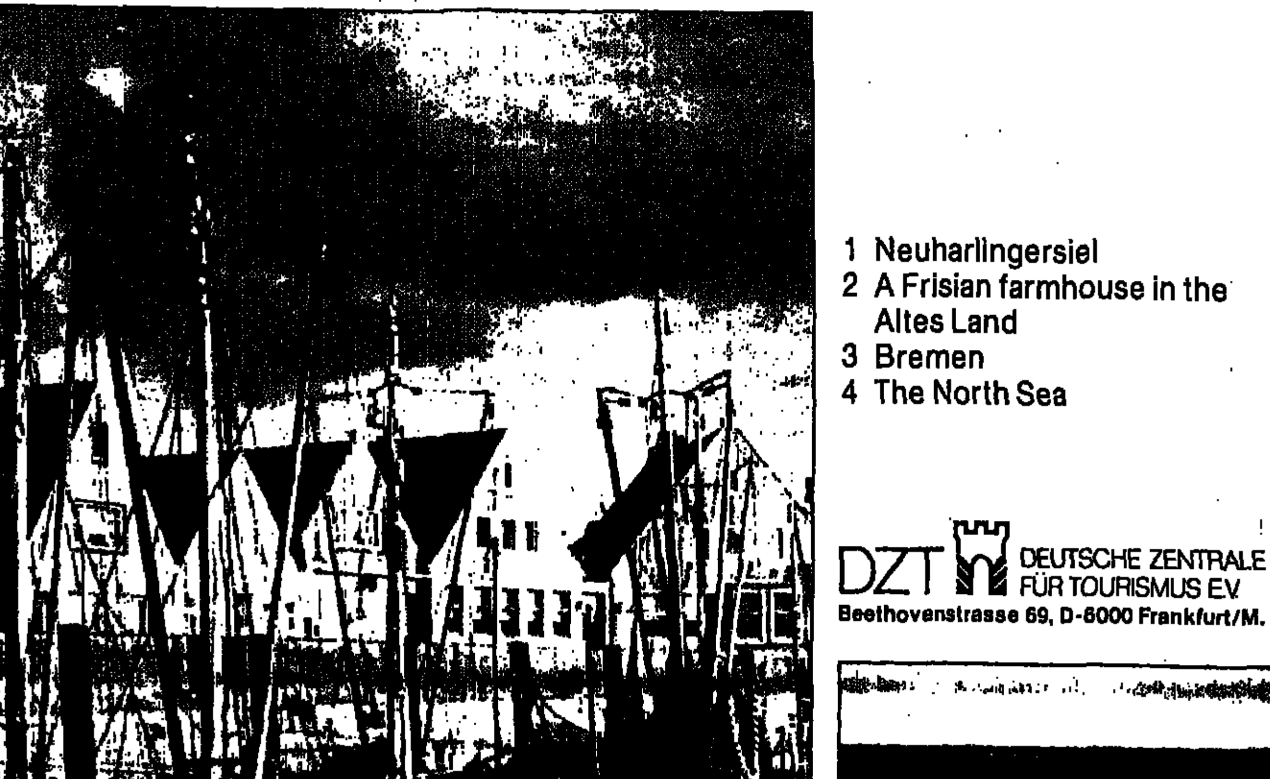
The Green Coast Route

German roads will get you there – wherever people live and there are sights worth seeing. Old churches or half-timbered houses, changing landscapes or townships. There are just too many impressions, so many people find it hard to see at a glance what would suit their personal taste. Which is why we in Germany have laid out well-marked tourist routes concentrating on a special feature. Take the coast. We are keen Europeans and happy to share the Green Coast Route with the Dutch, Danes and Norwegians. But we do feel that we in the north-west of Germany have the most varied section of the route. Offshore there are the North and East Frisian islands. Then there are the rivers Elbe, Weser and Ems. There are moors and forests, holiday resorts with all manner of recreational facilities. Spas, castles and museums. And the Hanseatic cities of Bremen and Hamburg with their art galleries, theatres and shopping streets.

Come and see for yourself the north-west of Germany. The Green Coast Route will be your guide.

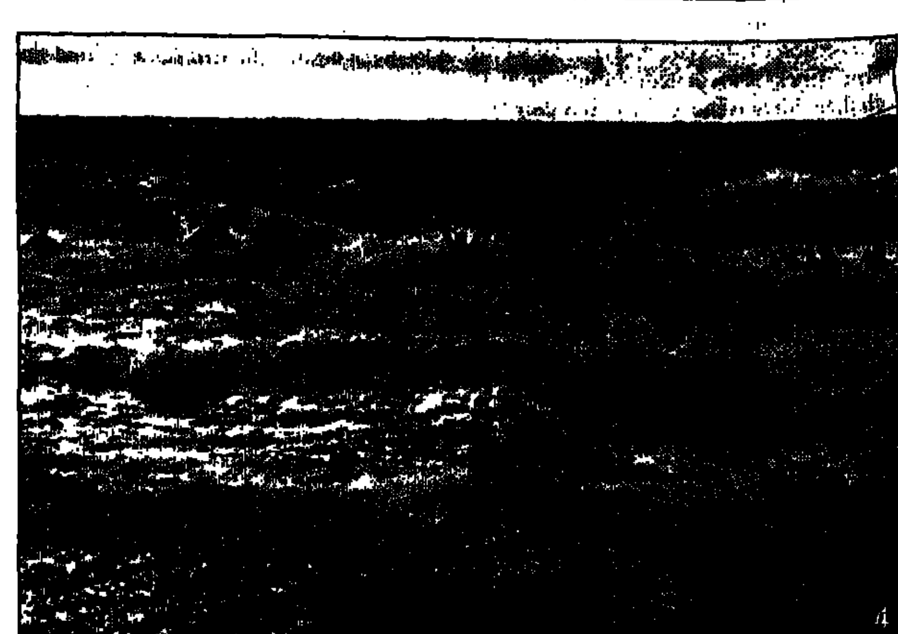








1 Neuharlingersiel
2 A Frisian farmhouse in the Altes Land
3 Bremen
4 The North Sea



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 24 July 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1332 - By air

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The European Community is again on the move



From Copenhagen to Athens and from London to Rome there was praise about the extent of the success of the German term in the chair of the Council of Ministers from January to June.

Members of the European Parliament, who have always been sensitive to atmospheric changes within the European Community, overwhelmed Chancellor Kohl with congratulations.

France's Simone Veil even referred to "a miracle" the Chancellor had performed; and even the Communist MEPs found words of appreciation.

The European Commission's level-headed president, Jacques Delors, said the Community had accomplished more in six months than in the previous 10 years.

This all is in contrast to the domestic mishaps that bedevil him.

The Strasbourg treatment will do him good considering his government's makeshift conduct of budget and tax policy and the increasingly loud criticism of his style of leadership.

No-one may want to measure the Bonn coalition's domestic mistakes against its merit marks in external affairs, but critics in Bonn would do well to look further afield than such parish-pump issues as tax breaks for aircraft fuel.

Concentrating on domestic issues has never been the right way to arrive at an accurate assessment of the overall situation.

Courage and strong leadership, qualities the Chancellor's critics feel he has been lacking at home, have been keynotes of his showing in Brussels for the past six months.

After years of listless participation in the European Community the Bonn government has abandoned its restraint and moved from the brakevan to the footplate.

In February Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher succeeded in severing the Gordian knot of budget, agricultural and structural crisis in the Community.

The reform package may cost Bonn a packet, but Herr Kohl can fairly claim the credit for the Twelve now being able to breathe more freely and pay more attention to the future.

The decisions reached in February roused the Community from a lengthy period of paralysis, since when confidence has reigned.

With a previously almost inconceivable show of enthusiasm the Council of Ministers set about making good the backlog of issues pending in preparation for the single internal market planned by 1992.

During the German term in the chair over three dozen guidelines were approved on issues as crucial as the total deregulation of capital markets, mutual recognition of university degrees and the opening of insurance markets.

Bonn made many a sacrifice in the process, setting aside German interests in a manner seen in Brussels as exemplary, and the same goes for the monetary decisions reached at the Hanover summit.

No-one will object to this great leap forward being attributed mainly to Chancellor Kohl as chairman of the Council of Ministers.

On closer scrutiny, however, he will be seen to have been lent invaluable assistance by two like-minded men.

The cordial relationship and degree of agreement between Helmut Kohl, François Mitterrand and Jacques Delors lent a powerful impetus to European integration.

The three men were agreed on all major issues throughout the six months. Had it not been for their spadework the deregulation of European capital markets would hardly have been possible.

Their "rule of three" thus seemed to be reaffirmed when M. Delors was elected to a further term at the head of the Commission. He is, without doubt, a stroke of luck for Europe.

The elation that now reigns in the Community entails the risk of setting too great store by the performance of the next countries in the Community's chair.

Neither Greece, the present incumbent, nor Spain in the first half of next year will be able to keep up the pace of progress toward the single internal market and political union.

Smaller countries regularly lack the administrative wherewithal to ensure the smooth running of business in Brussels.

Besides, the Greeks have stalled for the most egoistic reasons on the farm price package, long since negotiated, and thus irked the other 11 at the outset of their term in the chair.

The inaugural speech by Greek Foreign Minister Papoulias in Strasbourg gave rise to fears lest Greece might seek, as in the past, to force its own interests on Europe.

A sounder showing is expected of Spain's Felipe Gonzalez, who has already proved his European worth at many a crisis session.

Crucial years lie ahead for Europe, and many are reminded of the days when the French and the Germans, with the war still fresh in their memories, set up first the European Coal and Steel Community, then the EEC.

The memoirs of Jean Monnet, a founding father of both, testify to European integration always having gone through ups and downs. Upswings were followed by downturns and will doubtless continue to be.

The frequently so pessimistic Germans would thus do well to be fired with the latest upsurge of European enthusiasm. They, after all, stand to gain most from borders being thrown open.

As M. Delors recently wrote in his "Letter to the Germans," let us make use of the opportunity of setting up an "exemplary zone of peace, freedom and prosperity" in Europe.

Peter Hort
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 July 1988)



Jump!

(Cartoon: Hanel/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

IN THIS ISSUE

Hopes for a breakthrough in conventional armament talks

If the seven member-states of the Warsaw Pact were as efficient in other sectors as they are in coming up with military and security policy ideas, they would need have no fears about economic crisis.

The proposals drafted at their Warsaw summit may not be sensationally new, but they carry weight.

The crucial point is that the East bloc is showing growing readiness to talk without prejudice about asymmetries in conventional armament.

These are issues on which experts from East and West have negotiated in vain for nearly 15 years at the MBFR talks in Vienna.

There are many indications that a breakthrough might be accomplished in this sector. This may, where the East is concerned, have something to do with the appalling economic position the Warsaw Pact states are in. Arms and troop cuts are the only way in which the Soviet Union"s allies can perceptibly ease the burden of exaggerated defence spending.

The savings could then be used to streamline their hard-pressed economies.

This point is further underlined by the first official mention by the Warsaw Pact of a relationship between armaments and the environment.

This new sense of reality is no coincidence. Environmental pollution has assumed alarming proportions in Eastern Europe.

If funds previously invested in armaments were only available for other purposes the threat to the environment could be counteracted more effectively.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 18 July 1988)

■ HORIZONS

Light-aircraft taxi service — no waiting at airports

Civil aviation is booming. All over Europe flights are delayed and airports are crowded with frustrated travellers. One solution is to fly by private aircraft. People who can't afford their own can now go to any one of a number of agencies which deal with pilots wanting to offset some of the cost of flying by filling empty seats. The cost is lower than scheduled flights and there is no waiting time at either end. Business has grown so rapidly that some think only way to expand is going outside Germany. One firm has plans to open up in Austria and is looking at Spain, France and Switzerland. The agencies also do business in the more lucrative field of air freight. A spokesman for Cockpit, the pilots trade union, supports the idea of "mitfliegen" (with-flying) but warns travellers: "Be careful who you are getting into the plane with." Rainer Woratschka reports on an agency which claims to have been the first in the field for the Bonn paper, *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt.*

Two Munich men who claim that the private-plane seat leasing business is their own call their firm Hucke-Pack GmbH (it means Piggy Back).

Michael Westphal and Christian Kruppa, both 23, began only nine months ago. They got the idea while they were in Italy on holiday and saw how many private aircraft were flying with empty seats.

If you want to go from Munich to Frankfurt, they find a pilot with an aircraft who is making the trip.

Westphal said, without moving a facial muscle, that neither Franz Josef Strauss nor Matthias Rust were among their customers.

Strauss, the Premier of Bavaria, is well-known as a private pilot; Rust gained notoriety last year when he landed his Cessna in Red Square. Westphal said: "We shall have to wait a few years before Rust is a client."

Hucke-Pack has been doing well. Clients include many VIPs. The Munich Symphony Orchestra is a customer.

Both men have their feet firmly on the ground. Neither has a licence, but they are working to change that.

Their two-room office in the Schwabing district of Munich is a hive of activity. The phone never stops ringing.

Many callers are pilots who want to make full use of their aircraft and earn a little cash on the side. But most of them are people keen on making an air trip.

With a little luck and for a fee they get the telephone number of a pilot with whom they can then negotiate how to share the travel expenses.

The cost of a return flight to Frankfurt is DM200 per person. A return to Hamburg costs about DM360.

The advantage is the plane flies over crowded motorways and passengers avoid the delays at large airports. Scheduled flight ticket are also more expensive.

All over Germany private-aircraft centres have been set up.

Companies with catchy names offer to act as agents between passengers and small-plane pilots, some only operating on the side and with moderate success.

Hucke-Pack's main competitor is in Frankfurt, named Air & Ways. Its demand for a nationwide association of all centres has caused a stir. This company suggested that new centres should be excluded and that the business, small in any event, should be divided "fairly."

Air & Ways was, of course, attracted by the pilot files of the other operators.

The two pioneers in the business from Munich have opposed this. They would have to limit their activities to southern Germany.

Angrily Michael Westphal said: "Didn't we open up the contacts and get the whole business going? An association would be against our expansion interests."

As a result there is now a Hucke-Pack subsidiary in Frankfurt and Air & Ways has taken its revenge by opening up a second office in Munich.

Uwe Rauschenberg and his brother Dirk operate Hucke-Pack's Frankfurt office. Uwe said: "We and Air & Ways are now existing alongside one another, just about."

Nevertheless the nationwide centres have been able to agree a standard commission despite all their quarrels.

For a single trip the charge is generally DM40. The fee for arranging a return trip is DM60.

The two big agencies in the business cannot hope to make a living by arranging three or four flights a day. The big money is not made from "fly-with" passengers but from urgent and costly airfreight. To this could be added connections for "last minute flights" with charter and scheduled flight services.

This is an additional service which Uwe Rauschenberg describes as "rounding of our idea."

In the past few months especially there was a big demand for flights to the USA. People were tempted by the low American dollar exchange rate.

But the "fly-with" centres had nothing to offer in this direction because private planes usually only fly to neighbouring countries, not long-distance.

The idea of getting into the "usual" cheap flight business was a logical step, but all the "fly-with" centres were plagued by the same problem. Demand was enormous, but the availability of private flights was meagre.



Highway. Westphal (front) and Kruppa (Photo: teuto-press)

The centres in Frankfurt and Munich have between 70 and 100 private pilots on their books — and not every pilot has his own plane.

The German business has been systematically done to death so it is not surprising that young entrepreneurs have turned their eyes abroad.

Air & Ways intends to open seven offices in Austria, and contacts in Spain, France and Switzerland are being made urgently.

Westphal and Kruppa say that they are satisfied with just operating in Germany. They don't want to take on too much.

They got their brilliant idea while on holiday in Italy. There they saw how many empty seats there were in private planes taking to the air.

Uwe Rauschenberg once took the trouble of multiplying the number of empty seats with the flying hour figure of every plane. He came up with 100 million "seat hours" per year.

He said: "That is far too many," a view shared by Otto Gehlen, spokesman for the pilots' association, Cockpit.

According to his experience only two seats were occupied usually in private planes. "Two or three seats go to waste," he said.

Gehlen believes the operation is a good business idea, even through he does not believe that "it will get into the big time."

The prejudiced view that centres cater for "people with time to waste" and people just going for a spin has been disproven in practice.

Customers in Munich include personnel from BMW and Siemens as well as an eight-year-old boy who wanted to visit his grandmother quickly.

It is no accident that the Frankfurt office of Hucke-Pack has been opened close to the banking district, and concentrating on the Frankfurt fair activities leaves Dirk Rauschenberg with little time for the "normal" business.

Unlike many centres Hucke-Pack has gone into the insurance question. Their customers are automatically insured for DM320,000. Customers can take out additional insurance if they want to as well.

Otto Gehlen gives some good advice, however. He suggests passengers should be careful who they get into a plane with.

Rainer Woratschka

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 24 June 1988)

Video: shocked nun opens her own shop

Sister Leonora Wilson made an extensive, incognito expedition into Düsseldorf's video shops. She wore street clothes instead of her habit.

She saw about a dozen video shops and decided that that was enough: "I was shocked at the unimaginative selection. Far too many porno films, films of violence and horror.

"There were few entertainment films and no children's films. When there were films of this sort they were hidden away in a corner."

The number of films available seemed to her to be enormous and one-sided. The supply concentrated on "Rocky," "Rambo" and "pornographic" films, monotonous, cheap, mass-produced.

The wretched experience of her expedition through Düsseldorf's video world was enough to trigger off an idea which Sister Leonora had had at the back of her mind for some time: the establishment of a Church video shop.

In view of the hostility Church circles have shown to television the idea was original, to say the least.

For Sister Leonora of the Sisters of St Paul the idea was natural, for her Order had taken on as its mission the dissemination of the faith through the media.

Sister Leonora is a media expert. She graduated in media studies in her hometown in America before she came to Germany four years ago.

The intellectual basis of the Order, that operates in 38 countries, is St Paul's worldview.

In explanation Sister Leonora said: "Paul assumed that belief only made up a small part of life and that one should not neglect the other aspects of life.

"For this reason we disseminate everything that is noble and human, what is good and culturally worthwhile. That could include a good adventure film."

There was nothing standing in the way of her opening her own video shop. The vicar-general of the Order in Rome gave his consent. The Order's house in Düsseldorf put up the money.

The shop, located in the centre of Düsseldorf, was opened in March. The black letters "Video-Galerie" stand out from a green background. The only reference to the Church owners are the inconspicuous words, "St Paulus."

Within a few weeks Sister Leonora Wilson's shop was an insider tip for film fans who wanted to see more than boxing, blood and breasts.

Two elderly ladies, who regularly visit the shop early in the morning just after it has opened, commented: "Here we can find the classics, and the French films we like to watch."

Film classics make up a very large proportion of the video shop's stock. There is a complete series of Charlie Chaplin and Heinz Rühmann films. There are also editions of *Kinder des Olymp*, *Das Kabinett des Doktor Caligari* and the *Faust* film with Emil Jannings.

The two elderly ladies said that this film was not available anywhere else. One said: "People laughed at us in other video shops when we asked for this."

No-one is laughed at in Sister Leonora's shop. Whenever possible the most unusual requests are met. Sister Leonora said: "The only films we do not handle are porno, violent or horror films." She regards

Continued on page 15

■ GARDENS

Reviving old ideas about geometry and magic

Famous historical gardens reveal something about the people who created them and their time.

That can be seen in gardens at Pillnitz or Potsdam; at Sacro Bosco, in Bomarzo; in the Boboli Garden in Florence; in Fontainebleu and Versailles.

To visit any of them is to experience nature as architecture: they are gardens of geometry and magic; of stone and water; of pleasure or cult.

Yet it is not widely known that today, efforts are being made to create similar parks in various parts of Europe.

Knud W. Jensen, the master of Humlebaek, just north of Copenhagen, has created "Louisiana," a mixture of modern Danish and international sculpture, by the sea.

At Otterlo, in Holland, the park-as-a-museum lives on in the gardens belonging to Helene Kröller-Müller, the wife of an industrialist. In these instances the garden is celebrated as a whole, uniting man, art and nature.

There is a modern garden of paradise developing in obscurity in Germany too. It covers 17,000 square metres and is hidden away, quite unexpectedly, in the Lower Rhine countryside.

Here the idea of "Art parallel to Nature" has been furthered for the past four years.

The museum-park Hombroich near Neuss, in the triangle between Düsseldorf, Krefeld and Aachen, is hard to find. The operation has now been turned into a limited company.

Nevertheless it has its "Prince." Pedro, the assistant gardener, calls him "Boss." He means Karl-Heinrich Müller, who is an industrial real-estate broker operating in Vienna, Paris and London.

The "Prince" found his gardener through art. Müller is a fanatical collector. One Saturday at midday he entered the antiques shop of Dr Bernhard Korte in Düsseldorf.

Korte, who had studied gardening and landscaping at Hanover's Technical College, mentioned in passing that he would like to return to his old trade.

Müller asked what that had been. Korte answered: "I was a gardener."

It did not suit Korte at all when Müller asked him to shut up shop at once and follow him. Müller said: "I want to show you something."

But shut up shop he did. The drive to Hombroich was the changing point in Korte's life. He gave up everything and began tending the shrub garden in the old park at Hombroich.

I have visited Hombroich three times. Once at the height of summer in 1987 and again in that autumn.

The willows were already covered with straw for the winter. There were brown leaves stuck to the glass roofs, yellow leaves from the poplar trees spun to the ground.

The climbing clematis could no longer be recognised in the ever-green boxwood labyrinth, but in the shrubbery, in front of the Graubner Pavilion, there were still dahlias and roses. The gravel ground underfoot. The leaves rustled.

The strange sound of harp-playing attracted the attention. Aeolian harps were hanging from the trees, whose glass bars, stirred by the air, created a trembling sound.

Later, at twilight, "wonderful white mist" rose over the meadows. The garden had a melancholic and mysterious effect, mystical and wonderful.

The last time I was there was at the end of May. Dr Korte was waiting for me at the entrance on a hill.

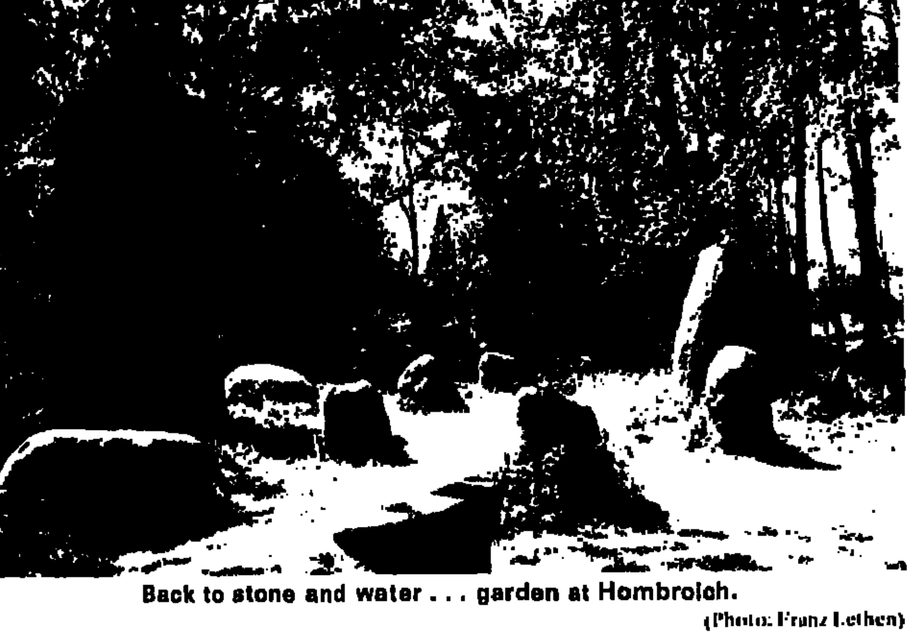
The distant meadows were lined with white bands of marguerites. There was a rainbow-like range of lupins at the fence. The ponds and pools, scattered about the landscape, were edged with yellow irises, wild narcissus, lady smock and buplever. Korte said: "We've got toads, dragon flies and nightingales again."

The gravel pathway led to the first pavilion, designed and built by sculptor-architect Professor Erwin Heerich, as were all seven buildings in the park. White marble floor, two tall pillars, reverberatingly empty, the echo of each step.

Until 1986, when Müller acquired the extra 14 hectares, they were used for growing turnips and maize. Before that cattle grazed there.

Korte said that Napoleon's cartographer Tranchot prepared a map of the Rhine region for the first time in 1807.

"It revealed an agricultural structure of considerable ecological efficiency: on the gravel terrace there were fields and orchards, meadows in the valley, ponds and shrubs alongside the Erft (now a dried-up river-bed). This landscaping was the model I followed in my ideas for landscaping Hombroich."



Back to stone and water . . . garden at Hombroich. (Photo: Franz Lethen)

Korte did some more research. He could see the silhouette of the earlier course of the Erft on aerial photographs. Pollen analysis from three humus tests (from 1000 BC to 1000 AD) showed a variety of plant life, that could be re-created as could the original course of the river.

Korte's dream was to create "an ideal landscape of rivers and ponds, delightful meadows, a community of plants, animals and people in a park, completely in the tradition of historal garden landscaping, like a protected kingdom."

On the gravel pathway to the next brick-building the mind was distracted by a pair of swans, whose five young disappeared into the tall grass.

Korte fetched the "weeping" willows from Belgium — 120 of them. The reason was that a road was built along the course of the stream and the farmer gave away the willows.

Korte has planted them in allegorical groups, one old, one young, one hollow (for the tawny owl), one strong. They glow grey-green like the olive trees of Tuscany.

We went through the labyrinth, past figures and sculptures, receptacles and seats.

There are no notices on the figures and trees. This is part of the whole concept of the Fine Arts, Art, Music and Poetry Company, the organisation that operates Homroich.

The company is made up of broker Müller and painter Graubner, gardener Korte and sculpture Anatol.

Anatol's kingdom stretches around the rebuilt barn. He is also responsible for the fish.

He knows what he is doing when he puts the fish in the streams and ponds — he tends them and angles for them.

The river-bank shrubbery, that we can see from the bridge, is planted with irises, flowering rushes, bog myrtle and marsh forget-me-nots, with honeysuckle, rowan and willows.

In front of the high gallery wall, the "Bezirksmauer," which separates the old park from the plain of meadows, there are exotic trees. A flame-coloured hedge lines the long building. The gardner said that if it grew taller it would be called "The burning wood."

To the right we can see the bright birch hedge. We stepped through the gateway-high door, usual in all of Erwin Heerich's constructions. We passed the black basalt sculptures inside, the high poplars outside. We passed over the old bridge to the ancient realm.

Tree trunks swam like crocodiles in the dark, over-grown pond. On the hill to the right there is a pavilion in *Jugendstil.*

On the left, marked out by a boxwood hedge, there is the "Opferplatz." On the stone altar in the centre, under the eyes of the Indian Elephant God, the gardener has planted blood-red poppies to please his "Prince."

In the boxwood labyrinth Korte has created his hydrangea garden from the exhausted rose-beds on the side of the gold-fish pond, hedged by callas and stone figures from Indonesia.

Fertility stones from India, looking like huge eggs, are scattered about under exotic trees. A few metres further on there is a pottery garden made from earthenware pots placed in the luxuriant vegetation. There is a new sensation to be had from every turn of the path.

This includes the empty Graubner Pavilion with its boxwood surrounded by beds of lillies looking like white meditation pillows, the swift-flowing stream, the six-sided wooden pavilion with its plank floor in the fork of the Erft, a brick throne constructed by Anatol, a spring fountain made of black granite, a deserted punt, the thingstead, built by Erwin Heerich, with white marble blocks.

In the pink house, built by the Wuppertal family of industrialists de Werth in 1820, there are exquisite collected items.

Eventually, after an enchanting period of time, one emerges from the forest of spirits into the bright meadows with the tall sky above.

Taking a short rest on his way to Paris, the "Prince," Karl-Heinrich Müller, sits at a table on the white gravel in front of the cafeteria, looking at his garden.

He deflects all questions with the remark: "I'm just the book-keeper. We work here. That is all."

Karin von Behr

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 June 1988)

Continued from page 14

her video shop as a contrast to, and expansion of, the Düsseldorf video shop scene. She has attracted customers from near and far — she has 254 at present.

Film fans from Bochum, Essen, Remscheid and Duisburg come to her shop. They have learned to appreciate the special selection she has on offer.

The stock also includes films dealing with the faith and the Church, but they are not put in a prominent position. The main emphasis of the stock is entertainment films for the family, classics and children's films.

Sister Leonora has lovingly got together the largest collection of children's films.

She has all the Janosch and Walt Disney fairy-tale films. She also has the film versions of Erich Kästner's books, the Grimm brothers' fairy-tales and *Alice in Wonderland.*

There are also war films on the shelves such as *Under Fire.* Sister Leonora said: "There are some tough scenes in the film, but we are not primarily worried about single scenes, rather in the artistic merit and broad message of a film."

Ulla Holthoff

(Die Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1988)

Continued from page 10

omic boom. His film, *Sammy & Rosie do it,* is equally critical of British society, but the criticism is made with British humour, black and not whining at all.

No harm is done to the film that it ends in superfluous drama with rioting in a London suburb. This is a film about racial unrest, British style. It is worth seeing.

Mareo Ferreri touches a sore point in his groteske film about Africa, *Weiße sein gut.* He always touches on the fantastic so as to be more credible.

A group of Italians bring spaghetti and milk powder to the Sahel in Eritrea. He deals acerbically with "humanitarian aid."

There was nothing from German directors. Not even anything grotesque.

The Argentine director, Fernando Solanas was in the VIP lounge of the Culture Centre for an interview with Bavarian Television.

In his *Tangos* he used mainline narrative and professional actors and musicians in his ambitious depiction of exile during The Dictatorship.

He spoke in detail about the military dictatorship and reappraising the past.

He was asked what he thought, as a film festival guest from Latin America, of the chic displayed in Munich in the middle of the 1980s.

Such questions are put for the Festival report on the Third Programme.

Inge Rauh

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, [illegible])

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Gorbachov in Poland: still no mention of the Katyn forest massacre

No Soviet leader can have been given such a friendly welcome to Poland as Mikhail Gorbachov received.

It was not just a matter of floral tributes from official sources. Gorbachov enjoys a level of public popularity that must be the envy of General Jaruzelski.

The Soviet general secretary tried hard to live up to the expectations placed in him. He sought to establish a public image as a reformer whom communist people could reach out to and touch, a man keen to meet the people — even though he ended up meeting only a select few.

He left no stone unturned in his attempt to canvass support for his enormous project of socialist renewal.

Yet many Poles were disappointed. They were hoping Mr Gorbachov, who has broken many a taboo, might say something about the darker chapters in the history of their two countries.

But he lacked either the courage or the power to call Stalin's crimes what they were.

Katyn. It stands for the murder of thousands of Polish officers by the Red Army on Stalin's orders. It stands for all the humiliation Poland has suffered at Soviet hands. That made it all the more depressing that Mr Gorbachov failed to mention what really happened and abandon the historical falsehood that the Nazis were to blame for the mass murder of Polish officers in the Katyn woods.

One reason why he didn't will have



been that it was partly a matter of Russian national pride versus Polish national pride.

Besides, the Soviet leader may have felt obliged to consider his own generals, who don't want to see the honour of the Red Army besmirched.

Mr Gorbachov missed a great opportunity for an emotional fresh start in relations between Russia and Poland, a fresh start that would have done General Jaruzelski, under heavy domestic pressure, a power of good.

The Soviet leader may be at the helm of a people with a powerful capacity for suffering and a people who have never known the feeling of freedom; Jaruzelski heads a people who are much more unruly.

Jaruzelski, who was installed in power by the Party and the Polish armed forces, still bears the stigma of having suppressed Solidarity, the free trade union, and of having come to power by the use of martial law.

How gladly he would have seen Mr Gorbachov not only make staunch commitments to reform but also flatter Polish national feelings.

But the Soviet leader did try to strengthen General Jaruzelski's hand in several ways. He called the General a great friend and congratulated the Poles on having such a head of state at so difficult a time.

They certainly depend on each other. Further unrest in Poland, which is always prone to domestic upheaval, would weigh heavily on Mr Gorbachov, who is already under heavy pressure in his domestic power struggle.

Like trends in the Baltic republics and, still more, in Armenia, where developments are out of control, it would add further fuel to the fires of conservative suspicions that glasnost and perestroika merely stand for the decline and fall of the Soviet empire.

It would be a heaven-sent opportunity for the dogmatic advocates of doctrinal purity, who have been gratified to note that the supply situation is steadily deteriorating. Even if Poland is a consumer's paradise when compared with the Soviet Union, the situation there is anything but rosy, and the same is true of other countries in the Soviet bloc.

General Jaruzelski's reform proposals envisage his fellow-countrymen first tightening their belts a notch or two. This is the credibility gap that hampers all attempts at renewal in the East bloc.

Reformers' promises are seen against the background of a sad reality, and people are no longer prepared to accept the idea of life growing worse, in material terms, prior to a general improvement.

This prospect plunges some into accustomed lethargy, while others, more temperamental, feel protest is called for. In both cases reforms fail to make headway because they rely on the commitment of the individual.

Yet the days of the controlled economy are also over, as everyone but dyed-in-the-wool doctrinaires is well aware.

So what must be done? The fact is that for the socialist states there is no alternative to renewal as advocated by Mr Gorbachov, General Jaruzelski and, above all, Hungary's Karoly Grosz.

They have yet to win over public support for their reforms, something that is essential. Because the burdens of the past weigh so heavily on the system, winning public support is much more difficult than drafting reform proposals.

Joachim Worthmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 15 July 1988)

Thatcher and Kohl hold private talks

The single European market was one of the topics when Chancellor Kohl and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held private talks at Chequers, near London. It was their third meeting within a month.

The Chancellor is reputed not to be on the best terms with Mrs Thatcher, but Anglo-German relations are far from bad. The meeting was held because there are issues that are better discussed in private.

They result from trends in European and international affairs, such as obstacles that must be eliminated in preparation for the single internal market planned for the European Community in five years at the most, a market even the United States is feeling increasingly uneasy about.

In the foreseeable future the German Question is likely to reappear on the international agenda, and Britain as a protecting power shares responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom of West Berlin.

Preparations must be made in this sector too, and Whitehall has noted that the Bonn coalition has begun to meet with foreign policy successes which Herr Kohl hopes to crown with a visit to Moscow in October.

Mrs Thatcher knows Mr Gorbachov and holds him in high regard. The Soviet leader has so far kept his distance from Herr Kohl. So in this respect too the Chequers talks will have been useful.

Richard Manders

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 11 July 1988)

Mr Gorbachov will not take no for an answer. At the East bloc summit in Warsaw he called for a European summit meeting to discuss conventional arms reduction.

This proposal for talks on scrapping tanks, field artillery and combat aircraft is in keeping with Western expectations; scrapping nothing but nuclear weapons would merely increase Soviet superiority in the conventional sector.

The Soviet leader did not, however, see fit to invite the United States to attend his proposed European summit meeting.

Washington was offered the option of a withdrawal of Soviet combat aircraft from Eastern Europe in return for a withdrawal of US combat aircraft to the United States.

This assiduous Soviet attempt to drive a military wedge between Western Europe and the United States accounts for the disquiet with which Nato secretary-general Manfred Wörner has responsed to Mr Gorbachov's latest initiative.

The Soviet leader is persistently pursuing his objective of a common European house in which the United States is not even to be allowed to stay as a lodger.

In America's place he recommends the Soviet Union as a protecting power and peacekeeping force in continental Europe.

In the meantime the Western Europeans are to appreciate the particularly dangerous situation they face in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet Union.

It is both nonsense and only logical for Western Europeans to seek refuge with a Soviet Union they still feel somewhat uneasy about.

Mr Gorbachov is trying hard to eliminate the correspondingly uneasy feelings in countries such as Poland that are Russia's immediate neighbours.

An unsatisfactory aspect of Mr Gorbachov's latest move is his proposal to hold yet another conference, the European summit, when the Vienna talks are perfectly well suited as a forum at which to discuss conventional arms imbalance.

Need for constructive western reaction to East Bloc summit

Every summit meeting is first and foremost an international show business event. The aim of the exercise is to emerge victorious from the defenders of world peace contest, with propaganda accompaniments diverting attention from the business on the agenda.

Besides, the Soviet Union as conference host would so outweigh the rest — if the United States were not to be invited to attend — that they would be bound to feel overwhelmed.

Conferences of the kind held in the East bloc are not an attractive proposition.

Despite these misgivings Mr Gorbachov must be answered, and the West's reply must not be no.

General-Anzeiger

Herr Werner's assurance that the latest Soviet disarmament proposal would be carefully considered must not remain one of the customary formulas used to cover up embarrassment and to serve as an excuse.

More and more people in Western Europe are coming to doubt whether there is any point in arming to the teeth in either the nuclear or the conventional sector.

Symptomatically, a growing number of conscripts in the Federal Republic of Germany are lodging conscientious objections to military service, while Germany's Free Democrats are keen to trim defence spending.

In this atmosphere arms limitation proposals must not be a Soviet monopoly.

We must never forget that the North Atlantic pact's defence potential forms part of the overall framework of detente policy, as Bonn's Defence Minister, Rupert Scholz, recently noted.

Mr Gorbachov's latest proposal has met with a varied response from government and Opposition politicians in Bonn.

The Opposition SPD counsels meeting the Soviet leader half-way and taking part in a European summit conference without American accompaniment. The Social Democrats have long advocated a zone of confidence in Europe.

The Christian Democrats feel unable to discount suspicions that the Soviet Union, as always, is intent on decoupling Western Europe from the Soviet Union.

Yet this is an opportunity that must not be let pass by without at least trying to arrive at limited common viewpoints held by the Bonn government and Opposition in the defence sector.

Mutual recriminations such as accusations of being subservient to Moscow or waging cold war are diametrically opposed to the approach that ought to be taken.

Hermann Eich

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 13 July 1988)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Controversial tax reform gets through upper house

The standard rate of income tax is to be lowered from 22 per cent to 19 per cent under reforms approved by the Bundesrat, or Upper House. The maximum rate is lowered from 56 to 53 per cent. Tax-free allowances go up from 4,752 to 5,616 marks a year for single people and from 9,504 to 11,232 for married couples. A range of exemptions is being reduced and consumer taxes are being increased. The entire package has been subject to an enormous amount of argument within the governing coalition itself as well as outside it. In the articles on this page, Wolfgang Koch looks at the package itself for the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, and Wolfgang Bok, writing in the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, looks at how the Opposition Social Democrats have benefited.

The Bonn government's 1990 tax-reform bill has been approved by the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament.

The coalition has managed to get one of the major projects of this legislative period, which the government itself praised as the "achievement of the century", past the obstacles of parliamentary procedure.

The squabbling within the government camp over maximum tax rates, withholding tax on capital, employee discounts and tax exemption for aviation fuel is over. The time has come for the man on the street to start calculating what the tax reform means in terms of marks and pfennigs.

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg reiterated in a speech in the Bundesrat that the main feature of the tax-reform package is the new tax rate system.

In future, tax progression will increase on a linear basis. At present tax progression, which denotes the increase in the rate of taxation with rising income, has has a "middle-income paunch" between the basic tax-free income level and the highest-income bracket.

Every extra mark earned, therefore, has a disproportionately high rate of taxation.

However, as linearisation causes such substantial tax revenue losses governments have steered clear of such a move in the past.

The government is also to lower the standard rate of income tax from 22 to 19 per cent and the maximum tax rate from [illegible]

The basic tax-free amount will be increased from DM4,752 to DM5,616 for single persons, and from DM9,504 to DM11,232 for married couples with a joint tax statement.

The underlying intention is to make sure that the minimum amount of income people need to live on is tax-free, a goal which the envisaged amounts fall short of.

In future the highest rate of taxation will charged at an annual income of DM120,000 (DM240,000 for jointly taxed married couples) instead of DM130,000 (DM260,000).

The lower proportional taxation zone, for which a standard rate of taxation of 19 per cent will be levied, will be reduced to the zone between the basic tax-free income figure and DM8,150 (DM16,300).

Corporation tax on non-distributed business profits is also reduced from 56 to 50 per cent.

A higher tax-free allowance can be deducted in future for each child (DM3,024 instead of DM2,484). Cuts in educational allowances are to be dropped.

Anyone taking care of seriously disabled persons gets a lump-sum tax exemption of DM1,800.

The maximum figure for special expenses (provisions for insurance etc.) for self-employed persons is to be increased by DM1,000 to DM4,000 per annum.

The cuts would give taxpayers a total relief figure of roughly DM37bn in 1990.

In view of the government's numerous financial commitments the coalition decided to finance a part of the total revenue loss by watering down tax benefits.

The list of cuts covers 59 items and gives the Treasury DM18bn in additional revenue.

Following the biggest ever tax relief figure this is the most comprehensive reduction of subsidies so far.

As it also hits the workers hard the bill triggered some vehement protest.

The lump-sum deduction for professional expenses, the tax-free employee allowance, and the tax-free Christmas allowance are aggregated and increased to DM2,000. The Finance Minister emphasised that this means that 75 per cent of all employees no longer need to calculate their professional expenses as a separate item.

At the same time, however, the Treasury will gain more revenue, since the tax-reducing effects of the tax-free employee and Christmas allowances will disappear in the case of high professional expenses.

The German Trade Unions Federation (DGB) has appealed to the Federal Constitutional Court to examine whether such a move is legal.

The taxation of bonuses for night-time work and work of Sundays and on public holidays was a particular bone of contention. Both the trade unions and the employers criticised the coalition on this score.

a rule, 25 per cent of the bonus payment will remain tax-free in the case of night-time work, 50 per cent for Sunday work, and 125 per cent for work on public holidays. On 1 May and at Christmas 150 per cent of the bonus will be tax-free.

The percentages will be added together for night-time work on Sundays and on public holidays. Night-time work is defined as work between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Those cases in which over half of the working hours are at night get 40 per cent of their bonus between midnight and 4 a.m. tax-free.

The time until 4 a.m. next day is included in the classification of Sunday and public holiday employment.

The Finance Ministry admitted that there could be limitations of previous tax exemptions in individual cases.

The tax exemption for the discounts granted to employees for products they produce will be restricted to DM2,400 a year. The maximum discount percentage on these products in future will be four per cent.

The improvement in this provision is the result of the pressure exerted by Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth, whose main interest was to rduce the tax liability for discounts on cars for carworkers (a powerful lobby in Baden-Württemberg).

Despite considerable protest by the banking industry a withholding tax of 10 per cent on capital savings interest will be introduced in 1989, not 1990.

This is a compromise between the demand by the Federal Audit Office for a taxation of all income and the fears of capital flight from Germany.

Savings and giro accounts are not affected by the new tax. Churches and non-profit organisations have also been exempted.

The tax will be treated as a part payment for income tax. Only in the case of the previously tax-free life assurance does this represent the fulfilment of tax liability and is thus tantamount to a new tax.

Together with the tax reform there is also a reorganisation of asset formation. The non-profit housing system will be partly abolished.

In the face of the unusually vehement opposition from its own members, many of whom demanded Chancellor Kohl's resignation, the government was obliged to announce a change to one of its original objectives: the tax exemption on aviation fuel for amateur pilots.

The government is suffering the same fate as the former Finance Minister of the SPD-FDP government, Hans Apel, who also felt out on a limb after the adverse effects of individual taxation plans necessitated their subsequent amendment.

Wolfgang Koch

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 9 July 1988)

Tax reform

What people will save in income tax

through the three-phase plan (1986, 1988 and 1990)

Marks per year	
over 5000	for 9% of taxpayers
4001 to 5000	4
3001 to 4000	5
2001 to 3000	12
1001 to 2000	29
501 to 1000	21
201 to 500	14
101 to 200	3
0 to 100	3

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Social Democrats capitalise on bill — but not completely

For the first time in years, the Social Democrats have pulled level with the Bonn coalition in the opinion polls. Both are around 42 per cent.

The main reason is the tax-reform package. Its formulation and bungled presentation have given the SPD room to act — without having to make any suggestions about what it would do.

This is one of the rare occasions since it lost power in 1983 that regaining office seems such a realistic aim.

Unfortunately for the SPD popularity cannot be equated with votes — some consolation for the coalition parties.

West German voters are much more level-headed when they go to the (real) polls. The decisive question for them is not short-lived resentment, but the assessment of a party's economic and fiscal policy abilities. This, however, is where the SPD comes a cropper. Although the CDU and CSU have plummeted in public confidence, on one crucial issue, the SPD's image has hardly improved: only one voter in four feels that the SPD could tackle economic challenges better than the government.

This is a bitter result. When can the SPD be expected to improve its image in economic policy if not now?

The radiance of the SPD's criticism cannot hide the shadows of its own performance in government.

When Hans Apel, the SPD's former Finance Minister, complains about the increase in the mineral oil tax approved by the present government, acting as if he was a patron saint of the motorists, many people will recall that the petrol tax was increased three times during the thirteen-year SPD-FDP era.

Very much the same applies to the tobacco tax, which was increased substantially by the SPD-FDP government in 1980 and 1981.

It was also an SPD Finance Minister, Hans Matthöfer, who increased value added tax by two percentage points in 1978 and 1979 — a move which the SPD today claims is a deathblow to the economy's expansionary forces.

The SPD-FDP government, therefore, also financed its tax relief programmes via higher consumer taxes and a reduction in tax benefits.

The government managed to indirectly get back DM9.4bn, for example, of the total tax relief figure of DM13.8bn during the 1981 tax reform.

The government debt in 1981 increased to DM37.4bn. Today, despite a much higher GNP, the SPD heavily criticises the probable new borrowings figure of DM40bn.

Against this background the SPD will have to brace itself for some extremely probing questions if, as Apel announced, it intends making tax and fis-

Continued on page 13

■ PEOPLE IN POLITICS

Scholz gets quickly into step at Defence Ministry

Rupert Scholz has been Defence Minister for just six weeks. He has had no personal experience of the services before but has already shown why he has developed a reputation for being a fast worker and a quick thinker.

Scholz hesitates for a moment on the lawn between the Pentagon and the Potomac. He has been briefed on the ceremony by the German military attaché in Washington but is no longer quite sure what happens next.

That is hardly surprising. He is 51, has never served in the armed forces, and this is only the second honour guard he has ever had to inspect.

The first was at the Defence Ministry in Bonn when he took over from Manfred Wörner on 18 May.

A month later he was welcomed to Washington by US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci with full military honours, including a 19-gun salute from gleaming black howitzers, the national anthems of both countries and the review of an honour guard consisting of Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard units.

Mr Carlucci, who accompanies him, as does the stiff-limbed commanding officer of the guard, discreetly raises his left hand. Defence Minister Scholz now knows which way he is expected to turn next.

He is clearly keener than either of the Americans to keep in step with the march music the military band is playing. As a greenhorn in such matters he would evidently prefer not to put a foot wrong.

His inspection of the colourful formation of the US honour guard, surrounded by the 50 flags of the states of the Union, somehow symbolises his approach to the job.

He is keen to learn the ropes, to learn them fast, and to make more than a reasonable impression when he, as a civilian, appears before the men in uniform.

He is keen to learn as fast and exactly as possible what matters in the present debate on East-West relations or on the opportunities and risks of arms control.

Even party-political opponents of the new man at the Defence Ministry have voiced respect for the intensive way in which he has, in such a short period, found his bearings in one of the most difficult jobs in Bonn.

On being presented to the Press in Bonn by Helmut Kohl on 25 April as the Chancellor's choice to take over from Manfred Wörner, who is now Nato secretary-general, Scholz, then still a Berlin Senator, showed he had a shrewd idea of what lay ahead.

"You are unlikely to allow me the proverbial 100 days in which to get my bearings," he told journalists, "but it remains to be seen whether I will need them."

There are indeed so many commitments that a new Defence Minister cannot afford to take his time and gradually acclimatise himself to the wide-ranging details of departmental work.

At the end of June he had to be on his toes to handle one of the toughest assignments a Defence Minister faces, the tête-à-tête with Finance Minister Stoltenberg.

His task was to persuade the Finance Minister that defence spending, which in comparison with other items of budget expenditure, has been on the decline for years, must be increased.

The burden of financial worries that weigh so heavily on the Bundeswehr must, he told Herr Stoltenberg, be eased.

He then flew to Washington for talks with Defence Secretary Carlucci on such tricky issues as how to maintain the credibility of the US nuclear shield in Europe and how to handle "out of area" problems.

On the one issue the Bonn government would prefer the United States not to announce plans to modernise nuclear systems with a range of below 500km — plans to which the Bonn Opposition is vehemently opposed — in the run-up to a general election in Germany.

On the other Bonn acknowledges the US interest in German assistance, especially naval support, in ending or containing conflicts outside the Nato treaty area, but Herr Scholz was unable to make Mr Carlucci more than a vague promise in this respect.

Even so, he demonstrated the courage of his conviction in leaving the beaten path of protestations by Bonn government officials that constitutional constraints rule out the deployment of Bundeswehr units outside the Nato area.

He stated unequivocally in Washington that: "Basic Law (the 1949 Bonn constitution) makes no provision whatever on this point."

The day after his top-level talks with Herr Stoltenberg he flew to Paris for talks with his newly-appointed French opposite number, Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

He will soon be heading for Whitehall and the third of Bonn's three main partners in security. He has no less urgent issues to discuss with British Defence Secretary George Younger.

He has to put in intensive preparation for all these meetings to ensure that German interests are not the loser, and he evidently does so with an efficiency his immediate associates view with a mixture of admiration and envy — of the ease with which he qualifies as a quick thinker.

"He is an extremely fast learner and the way in which he remembers everything is almost incredible," says one member of his staff.

What annoys some people is the pleasure he seems to derive from long and learned words. It is almost as though, even after years in politics, he still found it difficult as a professor of constitutional law to use words other people can understand.

Such complaints leave him unperturbed. After a lengthy monologue on the compatibility of options as an objective of conventional arms control a journalist interrupted him to ask how he was to put these points to his readers.

Scholz, unimpressed, answered: "That isn't my job. It's yours."

Some of his staff find his intellectual expectations hard to swallow, especially as he is impatient too, being a hard worker himself and finding it hard to hide his impatience or to suffer fools gladly.

Yet he can be most congenial when he wants. When he wants to motivate his staff he can be most charming and so entertaining and ironic that, as one staff officer puts it, the atmosphere pleasantly sparkles with working energy. "I have never come across anything like it," he says.

In this context it is worth noting that Scholz has dropped his initial misgivings about what he called the "strange staff organisation" at the Ministry.

In Berlin he headed a department run on strict and orderly hierarchical lines, and he feared he would be unable to retain the Defence Ministry planning staff set up by Helmut Schmidt and retained by Manfred Wörner.



Incredible memory . . . Rupert Scholz. (Photo: Poly-Press)

Herr Wörner had reshaped the planning staff to suit his personal requirements with the assistance of his closest associate, Hans Rühle, at its helm.

Herr Rühle shared Herr Scholz's fears that the new Minister would be unable to come to terms with the *set-up* and had made sure of Herr Wörner's approval of a well-paid executive appointment with the government agency in Munich that coordinates the production of the Tornado combat aircraft.

But Rühle abandoned any idea he may have had of retiring to this managerial job once he saw that Herr Scholz was beginning to appreciate the reliable advice given by his planning staff.

Herr Rühle, a former senior scientific adviser to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, is said by an insider now to have emerged as an indispensable adviser to the new Minister.

The CDU/CSU parliamentary party, of which, not being an MP, he is not a member, lends him equally indispensable political support.

Almost as soon as he took over at the Ministry he showed a keen and urgent interest in meeting Willy Wimmer, chairman of the parliamentary party's

Continued on page 5

South Bavarian SPD leader Peter Glotz plans to lead the Social Democrats in their 1990 state assembly election campaign against Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss and the ruling CSU.

Sharp intellect not always an advantage

Peter Glotz would not look like the proverbial Bavarian speaking his mind in a smoke-filled inn even if he were to wear the local attire of his Munich boyhood.

Brilliant repartee in a university lecture theatre is more in his line. Peter Glotz PhD feels being called an intellectual is a compliment even when it isn't meant as one.

According to the *Revue d'Allemagne* he is one of "the small group of politicians who strike a happy balance between action and reflection."

He was a dean of studies at Munich University by the time he was 30 and a parliamentary state secretary at 37.

He was then Scientific Affairs Senator in Berlin, followed by a six-and-a-half-year stint as Federal business manager of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

These are steps on the career ladder from which it may fairly be inferred that he is fond of power.

So when he left Bonn and the SPD leadership with Willy Brandt last year no-one really believed he would make do with the post of regional SPD leader in South Bavaria.



Worker and thinker . . . Peter Glotz. (Photo: Poly-Press)

Yet no-one imagined his predilection for political advancement would so soon lead him to set his cap at higher things.

In the SPD he has the reputation of being a man without a power base. The elections to the presidium after the next party conference will show how accurate this assessment is.

Many long-serving working-class Social Democrats are suspicious of his sparkling intellect, especially when he makes it clear that their minds are slower than his own.

They were also suspicious of the *task* with which Willy Brandt entrusted him, that of forging links between the SPD and the new social movements, such as the peace movement, the women's movement and civic initiatives.

Many saw his efforts to enlist support for the party among the technological intelligentsia as a repudiation of the SPD's traditional supporters. Yet he is impressive as a hard worker as well as in his creativity. He sleeps five hours a day and works for the rest of the time.

"Hello, Peter, have you written a book yet today?" North Rhine-Westphalian Premier Johannes Rau once asked him.

This quip was quick to make the rounds of journalists who envied Glotz the ease with which he was able, in the early hours when the phone wasn't constantly ringing, to dictate an essay on the significance of ethical and moral values in politics.

The result was not only ready to be sent to the printer's, it also tended to include a brief review of history and a preview of society in years to come.

Gerd Rauhaus

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 7 July 1988)

■ BERLIN

The city with the gold-rush spirit in the epoch of high tech

Many people in business tend to be pessimistic even when the economic outlook is good. But Jörg Schlegel isn't one of them.

Schlegel is deputy business manager of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry and he does not usually make prophecies of doom.

He even sounds proud when he points out that Berlin's economic progress has compared extremely well with the national average in recent years.

Viewed over a period of several years, he even feels the trend shows Berlin to have the edge on the rest of the country, which is even more striking when the city's geopolitical location and isolation from its environs are borne in mind.

There was a slight dent in the chart last year, but only because the consumer goods industry was unable entirely to offset the decline in capital goods turnover.

So the enormous efforts to which Berlin has gone are paying dividends. There are no more grounds for pessimism than for resting on the city's laurels.

The tax reform package in Bonn is a particularly bitter pill for Berlin, where politicians and businessmen seem to have developed split personalities on this controversial topic.

While teeth-gnashingly owing loyalty to tax cuts they feel are necessary in principle, they are trenchantly critical of absurdities that have arisen in connection with the tax reform package and most unhappy about proposed cuts in the subsidies that are Berlin's lifeline.

The Bonn tax reform package will cost Berlin DM800m, or more than twice the amount Elmar Pieroth, Senator of Economic Affairs and Labour, had planned to invest in vocational training and further qualification between now and 1995.

There has been talk of Berlin being required to make a special sacrifice. It is certainly a sacrifice, says Herr Schlegel, that must be a "one-off" arrangement and not become a regular feature of balancing the Federal budget.

He could but hope there would be no "negative effects" in its aftermath. In other words, the least economic downturn would hit Berlin doubly hard.

What particularly upsets Herr Schlegel is the lack of sensitivity shown for Berlin's special position. The city was prepared to make its contribution toward the success of the tax reform package, he said, but the total cuts now pro- pos[illegible]

Now it had lasting progress to show for itself the city seemed doomed to penury and bound to resume its role as a supplicant when the need next arose.

What makes the feeling of being de-

Allgemeine Zeitung MAINZ

pendent on a lifeline of Bonn subsidies so unbearable for the city's self-esteem is the fact that Berlin is a live wire sparkling with bright ideas on economic development and industrial location, that its wide-ranging endeavours are starting to pay dividends and that an unbroken pioneering spirit has overcome obstacles that particularly beset Berlin.

Senator Pieroth mentions the gloomier aspects of the Bonn tax reform package in no more than an aside. He is keen to foster an atmosphere congenial to the business community and to encourage businessmen who set up in the city despite its geographical disadvantages.

He feels four or five years' work lie ahead for him. The 42,000 new jobs created in the past few years prove, he feels, that his approach is the right one.

When he assumed responsibility for economic affairs seven years ago one problem he faced was a managerial brain drain that was inevitably accompanied by a loss of innovative potential.

Anyone who wanted to make it to the top of the managerial tree had to leave Berlin. "That," he says, "is why it is so important to persuade firms to set up or relocate with head offices in Berlin."

The lack of head offices is accompanied by a dearth of facilities provided to serve top management.

The quality of life has undeniably improved in Berlin, as shown by more than the steady increase in numbers of tourists and visitors to the city.

The range and number of cultural events and facilities available is enormous. Few cities can boast such a wide and extensive range of educational and further training facilities.

Berlin boasts over 200 research and development and over 250 vocational training institutions. Thirteen thousand scientists are engaged in teaching and research in an intellectually and culturally congenial atmosphere — and that offsets many a locational disadvantage.

"There are no industrial robots made in Germany that aren't based on bright ideas that originated in Berlin," says a self-confident Dr Seliger, head of planning technology at the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Plant and Construction Engineering.

His comment is typical of the systematic way in which the city's scientific infrastructure has been developed.

With the emphasis on information and telecom technology, laser research, biotechnology, medical, environmental and aerospace engineering, the range of know-how on offer is an irresistible prospect for business investors in what seem sure to be key growth sectors.

Berlin today stands for tried and trusted innovation and a gold rush spirit in the high tech and telecom sectors.

The most visible sign of these high spirits is the influx of new firms setting up in the redbrick AEG buildings that lay fallow for so many years.

They are newly-established companies with little paid-up capital but stacks of innovative potential and readiness to invest in new ventures.

Some try their hand at advertising, others at marketing *Bildschirmtext*, the German version of videotex. The frontier spirit has returned to a building that was a centre of industrial innovation nearly a century ago.

Private investors plan to set up a communications centre for the advertising industry in another disused AEG building on Hohenzollerndamm. It will house between 10 and 15 advertising and public relations firms offering a full range of services. In conversations with business executives in Berlin mention is soon made of 1992 and the single internal market in Europe.

Unrestricted access to markets throughout the European Community will provide crucial growth prospects and present major challenges to a city that is bound to feel the pinch of competition by virtue of being so remote from the rest of Western Europe.

Herr Schlegel has a catalogue of 65 proposals at the ready to improve Berlin's position as an industrial and commercial location.

They include quicker administrative decisions, faster processing of planning applications, improving transport to and from Berlin and business travel to East Germany.

Special checkpoint facilities were provided on the border between Berlin and East Germany for Leipzig Fair exhibitors for the first time in March.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry would like to see business travellers given preferential treatment at checkpoints on the border with East Berlin.

First and foremost, however, it wants to see an East-West Trade Academy set up.

If trade with the East is to increase and flourish, the chamber says, there must be a greater understanding of Western marketing techniques in the East Bloc countries and a grounding in marketing techniques must be available.

Berlin's share of intra-German trade remains an important one even though the volume of trade is marking time.

Experts note that the euphoria accompanying East Berlin leader Erich Honecker's visit to Bonn has not been reflected in business.

But the Chamber is undismayed. Confidence must grow gradually if business is to be done with the other side.

Closer contacts and greater openness are welcomed, but East Germany's conservative ways of business and the many parties with which Western businessmen have to negotiate remain drawbacks.

Robert Luchs

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 7 July 1988)

Continued from page 4

defence working party. Herr Wimmer's working party is shortly to meet with the Chancellor. So is the parliamentary party's finance committee. Not to mention the respective Ministers, Scholz and Stoltenberg.

Herr Scholz is anxious to enlist support in financing the Bundeswehr. The 1988 budget and medium-term financial planning are due for Cabinet approval.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, Bonn, 1 July 1988)

Investment: tax breaks stay despite reforms

Many Germans have had their fingers burnt by investing in schemes that are supposed to produce profits by being tax-efficient.

Tax demands instead of tax breaks have resulted from many a dubious oil exploration venture or overpriced real estate deal.

As a result, more people than are going for safe and reliable tax incentive schemes. One is the so-called Paragraph 16 scheme of the Berlin Promotion Act.

Berlin loan investors can write off 12 per cent of the total from their taxable earnings in the year in which they subscribe to the loan.

This tax break substantially improves the notional interest paid on a loan that would otherwise be a sound but unexciting investment.

Nominal interest paid on the present tranche of Berlin loans is 3.5 per cent on eight-year and 4.25 per cent on 12-year loans. The rate after tax ranges from 6.54 to 8.53 per cent.

The cash raised in this way is re-lent on a long-term basis at concessional rates to business investors in Berlin.

An eight-year loan currently costs a business investor 4.75 per cent and a 10-year loan 5.25 per cent interest.

Over an eight-year term the business investor can write off 12 per cent of the loan sum. So the lender's tax saving fully and directly benefits the borrower, says Reinhart Hundrieser of the Industriekreditbank, one of only two banks authorised to raise tax-efficient loans of this kind.

The other is the Berliner Industriebank. The former last year lent DM412m to Berlin business investors, the highest sum ever.

The Bonn tax reform package just approved by the Bundestag and due to come into force in 1990 will make heavy inroads into privileges enjoyed by West Berlin. Subsidies to the divided city are to be axed by roughly DM800m.

Yet the tax-efficient loans raised on the basis outlined above are to continue, and the Industriekreditbank's house economists say that makes sound sense. The effect of few tax breaks is so readily apparent. Between them the two banks have well over DM800m a year to lend. The tax incentive costs the inland revenue DM100m, or 12 per cent of the total.

The Industriekreditbank works on the assumption that no more than 50 per cent of the total invested is financed through Paragraph 16 loans, so DM800m corresponds to a total of DM1.7bn-DM2bn invested.

This equation is said to be bona fide inasmuch as loans are tied to a specific investment and cannot be used for other purposes.

Berlin "promotion" is intended to offset location drawbacks due to the city's insular status, and comparison has shown Berlin companies to be more expansive than their West German counterparts.

The annual increase in turnover reported by Berlin firms is, on average, two to three per cent higher than that of firms based in the Federal Republic.

Berlin firms are readier to invest and they also convert their investment into more turnover, although earnings in Berlin are slightly lower than in the Federal Republic.

Yet profits are higher. As a percentage of turnover they are, on average, over three per cent higher than those of West German firms.

Paragraph 16 loans play a key role in promoting investment. One firm in three polled said it made use of this low-interest loan facility. This has also led to most Berlin firms hiring staff in 1987/88, many five per cent and more.

Leo Fischer

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 1 July 1988)

BUSINESS

Europe takes a breath as it steps into the age of international TV

European television is on the way to becoming fully international. The advent of satellite transmission and cable television holds out prospects that one day soon, anybody anywhere in Europe will be able to watch anything they like. There are already three satellites beaming more than 30 channels into Europe. Another six satellites are set to go into orbit in the next two years. These satellite-transmitted programmes are shown in the almost 13 million European households that have been cabled — out of an estimated 130 million households. Some cable subscribers have a choice of more than 30 channels. The changes are spawning the rise of big new television companies formed by all sorts of media interests with eyes on the international market. But this proliferation is not being welcomed with open arms everywhere. There are big doubts about programme standards. In this article for the Bonn weekly, *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*, Lutz Kuche looks at how Europe is handling the new era of international television.

Satellite technology is making national borders almost insignificant in the television industry.

International cooperation in programme production and dissemination is the trend and there are prospects of a panoply of international programmes being offered.

Eurocrats, in their urge to cover everything with rules and regulations, have produced a draft directive with the aim of safeguarding minimum stan- dards.

The draft primarily covers youth protection, advertising and the need for more European productions.

The European Commission wants to see production quotas to limit American influence and to promote European programmes.

No agreement was reached, however, during the Council of Ministers' first extensive discussion on the directive in March 1988.

The German government rejects that there is a need for regulation and questions the Community's jurisdiction in the TV sector.

Bonn has to take into account the specific interests of the German *Länder*, since the German constitution guarantees them independence in cultural and educational matters. The *Länder* reject the idea of any Community-wide regulation.

Criticism has also been voiced by international journalists' associations and media trade unions. They complain that the directive attaches too much importance to economic interests and too little to cultural needs.

They insist that cultural policy should concentrate on maintaining and promoting the diversity of the national identities which represent the cultural unity of Europe.

All Community governments agree that regulations must be laid down for the rapidly expanding television market in Europe.

The Bonn government and the German *Länder* have fewer objections to the recommendations recently presented to the public in Munich by an intitiative backed by the European Culture Foundation.

The European Media Institute at the University of Manchester, which was set up by the Foundation, has been taking a closer look at the development and structural changes in the fields of broadcasting, television, print media and mass communications in Europe since 1983.

In view of the technological advancements in broadband cabling, satellite broadcasting and direct brodcasting during recent years, which have revolutionised the television sector, the Media Institute set up a "European Television" initiative group in 1987 to investigate the changes and develop corresponding guidelines for the future.

Under the patronage of Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, the president of the European Culture Foundation, the group and its highly qualified members discussed their first report with prominent politicians, media experts and broadcasters during a colloquium in Munich.

The public presentation of the report must also be viewed in the context of the fact that 1988 is the European Film and Television Year.

One of the main findings of the analysis is the need for general technological norms to enable a common television market in Europe.

Up to now the national governments in individual Community states together with the electronics industry have tended to develop their own standards for satellite broadcasting systems, cable distribution networks, teletex systems and decoding methods.

For this reason there is an urgent need for greater European collaboration in these fields.

Activities within the framework of a Eureka project for high-resolution television are exemplary in this respect.

The group confirmed that one of the major changes is the elimination or gradual watering down of the previous monopolistic position of public broadcasting corporations in the field of broadcasting, programme production and programme distribution. Free competition is rapidly gaining ground.

In order to keep this development under control, an increasingly difficult task, the group of experts recommends a "third path" for European television.

This path to development would be a mixture of public boradcasting and the deregulated approach which already exists in other parts of the world.

The group stresses that the search for a harmonious juxtaposition of public and private broadcasters should be orientated towards the guiding objective of maintaining quality standards.

Despite all its shortcomings European television is respected throughout the world for the high standards it sets.

The group admits that it's not easy to define what quality is.

Minimum requirements should exist, however, in both the technological and programmatic fields for an acceptable television channel.

An uncontrolled increase in the number of television channels should also be prevented, says the report, since there would otherwise be a lack of funds needed to achieve high standards and produce good programmes.

The European TV commission therefore calls for financing guarantees to enable public broadcasters to meet their programmatic commitments as well as for fixed quotas for the independent programme productions of the private TV broadcasters.

The experts claim that this would ensure that all television organisations become actively involved in audiovisual production.

The initiative group pointed out that both the European Commission and the Council of Europe are currently working on a European regulatory framework for television broadcasting.

The Commission has presented an outline directive and the Council of Europe a draft for a European broadcasting convention.

The legal basis, the scope of application and the tenor of the two documents, however, vary.

In the opinion of the independent experts the documents, which both set out to achieve the unimpeded distribution of TV programmes throughout Europe, should be aligned.

The recommendations pay particular attention to the promotion of a dynamic TV programme industry in the European Community.

The experts criticise the stagnation of European feature film and series productions despite the substantial increase in TV broadcasting time.

A growing number of repeats, cheap productions and software imports, primarily from the USA and Japan, represent a serious risk for the quality of European television.

These trends are particularly damaging for Europe's cultural identity.

There is a negative audiovisual balance of trade. The net deficit in the field of imports and exports of films and TV programmes was roughly 1.4bn Ecu in 1986.

In its analysis the initiative group emphasises that there is no lack of creative talents or production capacities in Europe. The production industry, however, must receive more financial assistance if it is to remain competitive.

The experts recommend more co-productions and standardised marketing for the distribution of multilingual programmes, tax concessions, the creation of an investment fund, and the increase in the promotion schemes for film and TV.

The experts demand the setting up of a "European Television Forum" as a politically independent body and moral watchdog to develop and enforce guidelines laid down by Community governments.

The current chairman of the European Media Institute and former director-general of Germany's "Channel Two" (ZDF), Karl-Günther von Hase, explained that a planning group under the chairmanship of the president of the British Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), Lord Thomson, is currently working out the details of how to set up the forum.

"The sooner and the more voluntarily the corresponding agreements are reached between the television broadcasters, the less we shall need government rules and regulations at a later date," said Hase.

He described the setting up of an efficient and non-governmental organisation as the best solution.

Lutz Kuche

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 1 July 1988)

MONEY

No work, ill, in debt: banks still lent him cash, then tricksters moved in

Unemployment and falling real incomes are being blamed for increasing debt. Many people turn to non-profit agencies for help. But many find themselves in the clutches of loan sharks masquerading as benevolent organisations. In the stories on this page, details of proposed legislation to hit the sharks are revealed; and the case history of a man who got himself up to his neck in debt — and then lost his job and his health — is described.

Hermann Steeger used to be an electrical fitter. And he needed to work because he wasn't good at handling money.

He liked fast sports cars and he liked to spend heavily to attract people to him. He became a permanent borrower.

He was paying back 1,000 marks a month to his creditors which, as a bachelor, he could do. Until he became seriously ill and lost his job last September.

But despite his unemployment and despite his existing debt, banks kept lending him money.

Now Seeger, at 51 and disabled, is in danger of being buried beneath a mountain of debt. His dole money of DM1,099.80 a month doesn't even dent the almost DM50,000 he owes.

This is no isolated case. One in two West German households is up to its neck in debt

The average sum borrowed by those who seek advice at the Dusseldorf consumer advice centre is somewhere between DM25,000 and DM50,000.

Growing unemployment, falling real incomes or unpredicted events have produced a situation in which more and more people find it impossible to make ends meet.

In their despair they often turn to unscrupulous loan sharks, who exploit the even the poorest to line their own pockets.

In his distress Steeger did the right thing. He rang up the debtor advice bureau, a non-profit organisation, in Essen in September 1986.

But the bureau said that it couldn't give him an appointment until March 1987.

Yet even this appointment didn't materialise. In May 1987 Steeger heard that the office had to close down due to a lack of funds.

Steeger recalls how he felt: "I was up to my neck in problems. I had so many debts that I just didn't know what was happening. And no-one would give me any more loans."

The roughly 200 trustworthy debtor advice bureaus, half of which are located in North Rhine-Westphalia, are "hopelessly overrun", says Hartmut Laebe, an executive member of the Federal Debtor Advice Association.

The Association is an amalgamation of all non-profit debtor advice bureaus.

Waiting periods of up to six months for the first advisory session are the rule.

This explains why so many commercial have moved into this field, touting for customers under the pretence of being a non-profit organisation.

Steeger was lured into this trap by a small ad in the neswpaper, in which a group called "Debtor Help D" in Arnsberg promised "rescheduling" and "low rates" as well as a "combined debt repayment plan".

The ad also claimed that there was no "waiting period" and that everything was "free of charge" — with the exception of a membership fee of DM100 per annum.

One week later Hermann Steeger was a member of this association and DM100 poorer.

The organisation wanted to administer his debts for just DM200 a month, he thought.

Two months later, after his second rate of monthly payment had increased to DM350, his creditors suddenly got in touch with him and warned him about his missing instalments.

Steeger, however, had drawn up a contract with the Arnsberger debtor association to transfer his monthly payments to this group so that it could settle the matter directly.

He complained to the group's regional secretary in Essen, but in the meantime she had realised that the group's activities were based on shady dealings and had decided to quit her job.

Steeger also immediately cancelled his membership. It was then that the underhand practices of this group came to light.

The money Steeger transferred was seen no more. What is more, he was invoiced for DM156 to reimburse the costs and administrative fees of a financial and investment consultancy firm run by the wife of the group's chairman, Heinrich Josef Müer.

The addresses and telephone numbers of the consultancy firm and of the debtor help group were identical.

A former secretary for the Arnsberg group explained that she was asked to obtain blank signatures for the debt repayment plans.

Later on she discovered that Heinrich Müer had inserted his wife's fiduciary consultancy firm in the contract as an additional creditor.

The monthly payments to the group were not transferred to creditors, but went towards paying the fees for his wife's firm.

The public prosecutor in Arnsberg is currently investigating the case.

As it is illegal for a debtor help group to administer the money of its members Herr Müer came up with the idea of transferring the money to his wife's firm (which he had owned himself just one year before) as a "legal" payment for fees and administrative costs. Without telling his trusting clients, of course.

"We're currently investigating against the group and its executive members on the grounds of fraud and a violation against the Legal Counselling Act," said senior public prosecutor Heinz-Bruno Lütticke.

After a search had been carried out on the premises of the group's office the group was prohibited from admitting new members.

However, a reporter from this newspaper who rang up the group and claimed that he was a student and heavily in debt was promised immediate assistance and a personal visit the next day by group chairman Müer.

Müer categorically denies the accusations of his former secretary. He maintains that there was no "mixing" of the group's activities and the activities of his wife's financial consultancy firm.

The debtors were asked beforehand, he said, whether they wanted their problems to be settled by a financial consultant. The task was only accepted under this condition.

Müer admitted that there had been some mixing of activities during the period when the group's office was temporarily closed down.

In answer to the accusation that signatures had been given to blank repayment plans Müer said: "Sometimes there were blank signatures. But that doesn't happen any more."

Hermann Steeger, together with many other people seeking help, had paid their DM100 annual membership in good faith in the hope that the group would help them.

The business practices discovered in Arnsberg are no isolated cases.

Hartmut Laebe feels that there is a "veritable boom" in the number of commercial debt rescheduling organisations.

In an as yet unpublished study the consumer centre in North Rhine-Westphalia outlines similar tricks in Wuppertal, Mönchengladbach, Bergheim/Ahe, Brühl and Krefeld.

Ulrike Stemmermann, who deals with the problems of people with debts on behalf of the Protestant Church in Westphalia, has also noticed an increase in the activities of the commercial groups.

Her constant and persistent campaign in the debtor advice centre in Witten has already pushed one debt collecting firm and a loan shark off the market.

However, it's becoming more and more difficult for the debtor advice centres to keep going.

In Witten, for example, not one of the five members of staff has a permanent post. They are either financed via the government's job creation scheme or, as in the case of Frau Stemmermann herself, via a short-term employment contract.

Advising heavily indebted people requires an extremely sensitive approach to their psychological and social situations.

"After all, we're not excavating prehistoric stones," said Gerhard Piniak, whose employment contract now runs out. He can only hope that it will be extended for another year.

Ulrike Stemmermann, who has al-

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SONNTAGSBLATT

Ministry tries to blunt teeth of loan sharks

Proposed legislation aimed at protecting people from loan sharks has been drawn up by the Bonn Justice Ministry.

The Minister, Hans Engelhard (FDP), has asked *Land* governments and consumer and commercial organisations for their opinions.

The changed law would require better information for borrowers and more protection against exorbitant interest rates.

The key feature is the amendment of Section 367 of the Civil Code. This would mean that repayments would no longer first go towards paying off the interest and lending costs rather than the principal (the amount borrowed). Instead they would be credited against the principal.

Consumer organisations and non-profit debtor advice centres have been demanding this for years.

Under the law as it stands, loans are often constructed so that many heavily indebted people cannot reduce loans despite high monthly repayments.

The bill also aims to prevent unlimited application of penal rates of interest on people who fall into arrears.

On the other hand, the bill stresses, default by borrowers does not justify a debt remission or any other substantial reduction of the lender's rights.

Another aim is to prevent commercial debt rescheduling organisations from dragging debtors deeper and deeper into the whirlpool of debt via "disadvantageous rescheduling arrangements."

Finally, it is hoped that the legal regulation of instalment contracts will be included in the new law in order to give consumers greater clarity.

Standardised stipulations are planned for all consumer, monetary, commodity and service loans.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 10 July 1988)

■ THE ANTARCTIC

Another Klondike not wanted — treaty aims at setting limits on mining of minerals

Awful! was the reaction of Robert Falcon Scott when he first saw the South Pole in 1912 after he and his party had spent 10 long weeks trekking over the icy Antarctic wastes to get there — and to find that Roald Amundsen's Norwegian party had beaten them by a month to become the first men to see the most southern point on the compass.

Views on the Antarctic, which millions of years ago formed part of a single continent with South America, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand, have since changed.

(Scott never had a chance to change his mind about it. The four-man party died, beaten by the weather, as they tried to get back to base camp.)

This dangerous, inhospitable and still hardly explored piece of land is now seen as a continent with a future.

Many scientists feel it might one day supply mankind with:

- food, in the form of edible plankton from the sea.
- water from the its icecaps
- and primary energy and mineral wealth from its landmass.

Even holiday resorts with modern hotels are being talked about.

The Antarctic's mineral resources are estimated at 45 billion barrels of crude oil, 115 billion cubic metres of natural gas and unquantified deposits of platinum, titanium, chrome, iron, copper, coal, gold, silver, uranium, cobalt, manganese and molybdenum.

A moratorium on exploiting these mineral resources has been in force since 1977, but the 37 member-states of the Antarctic Treaty have just signed a convention on mineral resources in Wellington, the New Zealand capital.

This convention on economic use of Antarctic raw materials is to come into force on 22 November 1988 subject to ratification by 16 of the 20 full signatories of the Antarctic Treaty.

(These 20 enjoy a special status in relation to the 37 by virtue of having engaged in Antarctic research.)

The terms agreed in Wellington after six years of tough talks are, historically speaking, the most significant political development in the regulation of affairs in the world's last unspoilt expanses



since the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959.

Peaceful coexistence in the Antarctic has so far been limited to scientific research. The new convention is mainly aimed at preventing an uncontrolled run on the white continent's mineral resources.

It is not the first convention signed in the wake of the 1959 Treaty. Others have dealt with protection of seals, in 1972, and of marine resources, in 1980.

Interest in exploiting Antarctic mineral resources has increased a lot, but the Wellington convention is unlikely to trigger a gold rush.

The strict conditions laid down in the convention are one disincentive, the Antarctic icecap another.

Even using special gear, ores and other commodities will, in the medium term, continue to be less expensive to mine elsewhere.

Mining is to be supervised by a commission, probably based in New Zealand.

Prospecting and mining applications will have to be unanimously approved by the commission. Even then, they might be vetoed by any Treaty state.

The 100-page convention also specifies that once an application has been submitted detailed environmental surveys must be made, bearing in mind objections by interested parties, including environmental protection organisations. Projects once approved will be subject to regular inspection. Breaches of the terms may lead to a project being shelved or to permission being revoked. In any such case, or in the event of an accident polluting the environment the company or companies concerned (or the countries they represent) will be liable for the cost of cleaning up and restoring the area to its original condition.

Inspection is also to ensure that countries do not set up strategic bases on the pretext of mining for mineral resources.

The proviso originally envisaged, that each project must be an economic proposition, has been dropped. So projects can go ahead on the basis of government subsidies.

Some scientists say on a strictly limited coastal region of the Antarctic is suitable for mining.

The Antarctic is equal in size to Europe and the United States combined, but only two per cent of its surface area is not ice-covered.

The remainder is clad in ice on average a mile and a half thick.

Apart from coal and iron ore none of the mineral deposits so far located seem likely to be mined at a profit, but this state of affairs could soon change once organised prospecting gets under way.

The Antarctic coastline certainly seems to be a more promising prospect in the short term, but no-one knows for sure where deposits lie. Besides, icefloes on the move could pose serious problems.

The chief negotiator for the Antarctic Treaty states, Chris Beeby of the New Zealand External Affairs Ministry, does not expect there to be any systematic exploitation of mineral resources until the 21st century.

Current commodity prices, he argues, do not justify the expense of mining in the Antarctic.

The convention was signed against the background of a keen counter-campaign waged by Greenpeace and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition.

They call for the Antarctic to be declared an international nature reserve, fearing that mining would lead to environmental pollution endangering the sensitive ecological balance of the Antarctic as a habitat.

They are critical of states that are particularly keen on exploiting Antarctic mineral resources as soon as possible and include the Federal Republic of Germany in this category.

They do not feel their cause, the establishment of an Antarctic nature reserve, has yet been lost and plan to wage an even more intensive campaign against the mineral resources convention.

Yet New Zealand's Beeby says the convention includes "stricter environmental protection provisions than any other international agreement."

Now agreement has been reached on the ground rules for international exploitation of mineral resources more countries near and far can be expected to show interest in a slice of Antarctic territory.

A decision on whether the Antarctic is to be reallocated, and if so, to whom, is not due until 1991 when the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, signed by an initial 12 states, expires.

It froze territorial claims until 1990, but international jostling and squabbling over drafts of a treaty to follow the 1959 agreement, which has so far proved most successful, can be expected to start soon.

Seven of the signatories have already staked territorial claims in the 16.2 million square kilometres of Antarctic. None has yet been granted international recognition.

Britain's territorial claims, for instance, overlap those of Argentina and Chile.

Argentina bases its claim on a 1493 ruling by which Spain was granted all land west of a line extending from pole to pole through the Atlantic.

Since 1933 Australia has laid claim to no less than 42 per cent of the Antarctic landmass with reference to its security requirements.

France has built an airstrip in the Antarctic, much to Greenpeace's *chagrin* and heedless of the international environmental organisation's complaints.

New Zealand bases its claim on being the nearest country to the Antarctic mainland, while Norway laid claims to sovereignty over part of the Antarctic back in 1931.

The other five original signatories, the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, Belgium and South Africa, have so far made do without territorial claims.

Since the Antarctic Treaty came into force Poland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil, India and China have acceded as full members and East Germany Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Holland and Rumania as non-voting members.

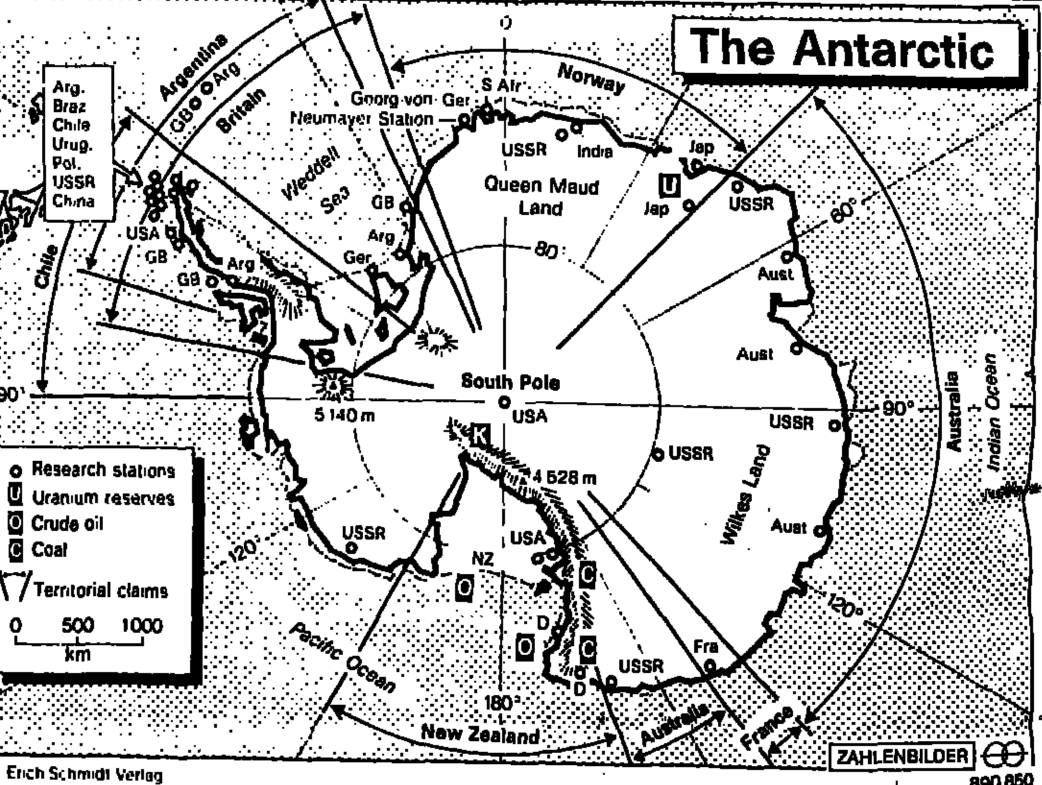
Reconciling the interests of all these countries once the original treaty has expired will be the acid test for the future of the sixth continent.

A number of developing countries are already worried lest the signatories, as a "club" of privileged nations, share out the riches of the Antarctic among themselves.

Under Malaysian leadership they recently called for the Antarctic Treaty to be superseded by a UN-guaranteed pact assigning the Antarctic "common heritage of mankind" status.

Boris B. Behrsing

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 June 1988)



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ready managed to move from one extension to another during the past three and a half year, added:

"A new adviser needs roughly three months to become familiar with the increasingly complex subject matter.

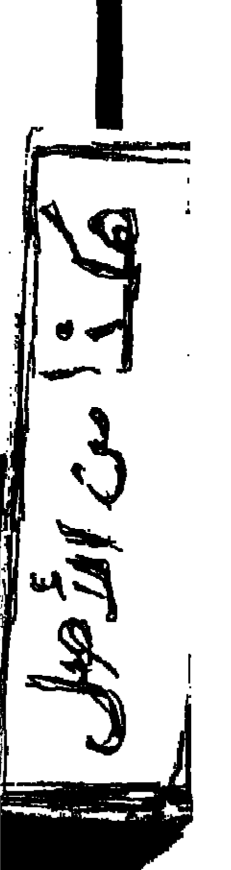
If you take into account holidays and the weariness which generally crops up at the end of the job creation year that leaves about three months of full-time work."

The situation is made even worse by the fact that the Labour Office doesn't inform people about the approval or rejection of an extension until the very last moment.

Frau Stemmermann feels that the only way to improve things is to amend the Federal Social Security Act.

Debtor counselling should become a statutory task in the field of social work, she says. This would be the only way to tackle the growing problem more responsibly. *J. Schnitzmeier/G. Anschütz*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 10 July 1988)



■ TRANSPORT

Urban traffic comes to a crossroads — or perhaps it's a roundabout

Frankfurter Rundschau

Slowing urban traffic down, known in German as *Verkehrsberuhigung*, or "traffic pacification," has assumed the proportion of a mass movement, with all the accoutrements of euphoria and ideology.

Yet the fact of the matter that in the year 2000 cities and towns will still have to live with motor traffic.

Professor Wilhelm Leutzbach made this point in Berlin, clearly rejecting the views espoused by zealots who advocated what he called the "utopia of a carless city."

A founder of the scientific study of traffic in the Federal Republic of Germany, he said no-one favoured the idea of cities custom-built for motor-cars.

But the statistics spoke for themselves. In 1958 there were four million cars in the Federal Republic; by 1990 Deutsche Shell expects there to be 31 million.

So Germans have "voted with their wallets" for the private car, which both subjectively and objectively ensures a new quality of life and a mobility neither young nor old are prepared to forgo.

Cities and towns that have grown slowly down the centuries are certainly not designed to handle the resulting traffic. Traditional urban facilities cannot be reconciled with 30 million private cars.

Given this state of affairs transport policy has only three options, Professor Leutzbach says.

The first is to argue that cities have always changed and will just have to change to cope with the new phenomenon of mass motor transport.

This is a policy that culminated in cities such as today's Tokyo or Los Angeles, a policy of building roads until nothing but cement is left. It no longer stands any chance of gaining acceptance in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The second is to argue that it is for traffic to adapt to the city, and not vice-versa, the aim of this approach being to give absolute priority to the quality of urban life and the city's "appearance."

The third is an attempt to arrive at a sensible compromise. If we must live with 30 million cars yet don't want cities to be custom-built to suit the motor-car, we must subdivide the city.

It must be divided into areas where residential factors are given priority and areas where the motor-car has right of way.

Professor Leutzbach cited Hamburg as a case in point, a city consistently subdivided into several hundred residential areas where traffic was to be kept to a minimum.

The trouble with "traffic pacification" is that cars tend to be forced out of residential areas and onto peripheral, or ring, roads that are already heavily congested.

"It then makes obvious sense to say," he continues, "that traffic pacification must be implemented not by sector but in a blanket manner, including main roads."

Then at the latest, objectives clash. All targets cannot be reconciled. The attempt may still be made, but on an increasingly "fundamentalist" basis.

The headway this approach has made is exemplified, he says, by the demand made by the Standing Conference of German Town Councils at the beginning of June to change the general speed limit in built-up areas.

The present limit is 50kph, with a special 30kph speed limit in residential areas.

The local authorities' suggestion is for 30kph, or 20mph, to be the general speed limit, waived to permit 50kph, or 30mph, on a handful of main roads.

Munich traffic expert Professor Max Danner, also speaking in Berlin, said this idea was still half-baked.

It would, for instance, relieve urban authorities of the obligation to specify accident black spots or areas where problems really arose.

As always when they are unable to handle a complex system, Professor Leutzbach argued, people took the soft option and went to the other extreme.

They were tempted to ignore the trend of which progressive motorisation had been the keynote. This approach could be classified as one of hostility toward the motor-car.

Symptoms of this approach were universally apparent, he said. Political reality had reached the point at which a *Land* such as North Rhine-Westphalia was no longer prepared to "promote a further increase in motor traffic in transport blueprints."

Saarbrücken, for instance, had already installed what he called gatemen's lodges at the city limits.

Traffic lights were set at red for cars, with only bus lanes at green, to enable bus passengers to reach the city centre faster.

Views might, he felt, differ on whether it was preferable to have traffic jams outside rather than in the city centre, but if this was felt to be the case, then all the consequences must be taken into account.

No-one would today deny for a moment that traffic pacification is both sensible and feasible. No-one, for that matter, would deny that public transport has a major role to play.

Views merely differ on the individual measures by which traffic pacification is undertaken.

Modern cities cannot make do without an efficient road network. Major roads must handle through traffic that is bypassed from residential areas. The entire system will otherwise break down.

So the aim must be to design major roads so as to keep accidents to a minimum without detriment to the traffic flow.

This point was made by Konrad Pfundt, head of the Motor Insurers' Association's accident prevention research unit.

His unit has pioneered research and comparative studies in this sector for years.

In the early days of traffic pacification the idea was that by paving roads evenly from wall to wall for "mixed use" traffic could effectively be slowed down.

This soon proved not to be the case. Motorists did not feel they were mere "visitors" on a uniformly paved road. They didn't drive more slowly either.

Roads paved in this way will sooner or later be blocked by parked cars, so bollards, chains, ramps and similar obstacles are indispensable.

"There are no limits to brutality," as Professor Leutzbach put it.

"Traffic pacification along these lines," Herr Pfundt said, "would definitely not be the answer on a main road used by 20,000 vehicles a day.

"We must find other ways of dealing with the problem here, converting roads in other ways. They simply cannot be rebuilt as residential streets."

No-one could yet say for sure which mode or modes of conversion were the most suitable. All that could be said for sure was that narrow sections and coloured obstacles were not enough.

Anything but. Too many coloured lines merely confused motorists over and above existing misunderstandings.

Roads with central reservations have proved safer than roads with merely a continuous yellow line down the middle. Traffic islands are a welcome refuge for pedestrians.

Initial findings of large-scale trials in North Rhine-Westphalia have recently been made available. Systematic experiments are under way there to improve safety on through roads.

Roundabouts, long dismissed as a bad idea in Germany, are coming back into their own as a means of improving motorists' behaviour at crossroads and intersections and of improving road safety.

Roadworks of this kind do not come in the bargain basement category. Pfundt mentioned figures ranging from DM200 per square metre of residential road to several million marks for a through road.

Yet there could be no doubt that road safety must be improved, especially in busy shopping streets used by motorists as well as cyclists and pedestrians.

They were simply more dangerous than urban autobahns or city streets that passed through undeveloped areas.

In this connection Herr Pfundt was opposed to "red-light" systems such as were in operation in Böblingen, near Stuttgart, with the aim of enforcing the 50kph limit.

"When drivers are not local motorists," he said, "and tend, as a result, to drive too fast the sensors in the road surface will fail to trigger the green light and cars will simply sail through the red."

Similarly, it can hardly be the most brilliant idea to install flashing roadside lights that say: "Look out! You are doing 78kph!"

By the time a motorist has passed the third such signal without anything happening he will tend to ignore them.

Too much store must not be set by the latest traffic control systems on trial in West Berlin, he said. Collective and individual information on traffic conditions is aimed at diversifying traffic flow.

Complex electronic systems are even used in an attempt to pre-empt motorists' responses, with convoy systems making best use of the available roads.

"These are all extremely interesting ideas that may one day be of practical importance," he said, "but in urban areas, we need not expect the pressure on traffic to ease as a result."

So attempts must be made to arrive at sensible structural improvements to the road network. *Joachim M. Strampp*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 July 1988)

■ DRAMA-SCHOOL AUDITIONING

Shattered nerves, dashed hopes as Lulu reveals everything except talent

Lulu is one of this year's 888 applicants for drama studies at Berlin's College of Arts (HdK).

She takes her time to present her test roles in front of a highly critical commission of examiners.

She begins by spreading out a pink silk shawl on the edge of the stage and then lying down on it.

Stretching out seductively, she coquetishly enables the examiners to see down her dress.

The expression on her face changes and, with clenched fists, she starts hurling the words of her role across the forestage with profound contempt: "You're right to show me where I belong."

The commission seems unmoved by the performance of the young seductress.

For the next test of her acting abilities Lulu wraps herself in a white sheet she pulls out of a box of props brought along for her "audition".

Moving from Wedekind to Goethe she now tries her hand at Iphigenia.

After just a few sentences the head of the examiners' commission, Professor Moritz Milar, stands up and says: "Thank you, that's enough for a first impression."

Casting off her role as the daughter of Agamemnon Lulu, visibly irritated, picks up her props and rushes behind stage.

The next candidate is Pickel, who has chosen a part from *Class Enemy* by Nigel Williams.

His performance seems unusually weak and his false Berlin accent makes him look more like the captain in Zuckmayer's *Hauptmann von Köpenick*.

Each candidate has to perform four roles, including one from the works of Shakespeare. According to Professor Milar, Shakespearian roles are "particularly well-suited as a magnifying glass for acting talents."

Pickel's presentation of Julius Caesar, however, resembles a recital rather than a role interpretation, and it is this role which makes it all too clear that he has a lisp.

Following the presentation of four roles by four candidates the members of the commission draw up an interim résumé.

Their assessment, of which each candidate receives a written version, is based on 21 criteria.

In Lulu's case the assessment sounds like this: "Well, I give her a one, a five and a twelve."

The other examiners agree with their colleague and one even gives her a seventeen.

Number one stands for the lack of a general acting ability, and generally means the automatic end of the road for an applicant.

Five denotes the lack of vivid powers of imagination, twelve inadequate expressiveness, and seventeen a poor rating for bodily movements.

Pickel comes off even worse. With an ironic undertone one of the commission members calls for a twenty-one, pointing towards the speech impediment which has ruined the chances of so many would-be actors.

This is the second of the twelve days scheduled for the preliminary examination. Sixty candidates aged between 18 and 28 have already auditioned.

The HdK has a good reputation. Almost all of its students find an acting job when they leave the college.

Stars such as the singer Klaus Hoffmann, Corinna Kirchhoff, who made a name for herself at the Schaubühne, or Verena Peter, who acted in the TV series *The Black Forest Clinic* are just some of the actors who were trained there.

Despite the fact that the classics in particular have a much greater number of male roles two thirds of all applicants are women.

In view of the thousands of unemployed actors many men may feel that acting is a job with no future. Another possible explanation for the female predominance is a better ability of men to assess their own talents.

Marga (27) doesn't stand a chance of being one of the 41 candidates selected for the final examination.

Her classic roles (Medea, Elektra, Penthesilea and Julia) look too artificial.

One of the female commission members claims that "her face is too tensed up, and her voice has been ruined by too many drama lessons. It's too late to reverse that now. She would have to be trained by the Gods to make her any better."

Training at the Hdk attaches great importance to the malleability of candidates. Applicants whose characters are too "pre-moulded" are usually rejected.

The mood of the examiners is somewhere between subdued and bored. This is going to be another long day and they are already running behind schedule by midday.

Then Heike appears on stage and stands shyly in the dazzling spotlight.

"Anything bothering you?" Milar asks. "Yes, the fact that I can hardly see you," Heike almost inaudibly answers.

The surprise is all the greater at the way in which she adapted the role of Agnes in Molière's *L'Ecole des Femmes*.

Almost hovering across the stage, eyes wide open, she plays the part of a woman in love.

Suddenly she stops in mid-sentence on the right-hand side of the stage and

Saarbrücker Zeitung

bursts into tears. The strain of the situation becomes unbearable.

After the examiners have calmed her down she slips into bright green stockings, a red wet-look leather miniskirt, and purple high-heeled shoes.

Her next role is Dario Fo's *Monologue of a Prostitute*. Her rendition charges the atmosphere with suspense.

Even the now weary examiners show a keen interest. "Prostitute?" she says, "I prefer to call myself a tart, that's a word everyone understands." Her role is a mixture of a prostitute and a cheeky girl from Berlin.

Despite her nervousness Heike goes on to present Puck from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In the end Heike is accepted as a candidate (by two votes to one) for the final examination. The two student representatives in the commission, who only have the right to state their opinion but not to vote, feel that Heike is a good choice.

For some candidates selection by the commission can mean the start of a successful acting career.

Behind stage they all wait to be given a break. Suddenly the door opens and Manuel, who had hitch-hiked to Berlin from Mannheim the previous day, comes in looking pretty exhausted.

"I noticed that they don't like me," he says, banging his fist on the wall. "Three months rehearsal to be told that it's all over in just a few minutes."

Another candidate, Holger, seems unimpressed by Manuel's frustration. One in three of the candidates in the waiting room is listening to a walkman.

"I listen to the Beatles to get my mind off things, " Holger explains. "If I feel whacked I tune in to punk music, and if I'm nervous I listen to some quiet synthesiser music."

In answer to the question why he wanted to become an actor he just shrugs his shoulders.

Hardly any of the candidates have a proper answer. In many instances, it seems as if they are trying to find some kind orientation, to test their limits.

Carola (20) from Cologne has an answer: "I want to play a number of different roles. The one nature has given me is not enough. For me acting is a type of freedom and self-discovery."

Like many other applicants she has already auditioned at other drama schools: "In Munich it was really bad. The people there were already competing with each other behind stage. The commission in Vienna was really arrogant, and things were chaotic in Essen because the examiners were squabbling with each other."

Bernhard is twenty-six and thus five years above the average age.

He has been attending a private drama school for DM400 a month for a year.

"The private school is not enough. There is not enough depth, and it is too expensive.

"At the Hdk you get a student grant and you're guaranteed a job later on. I would prefer to become a director and I reckon I can deal with actors better if I've gone through the same training myself."

Last year Bernhard made it through to the final examination, the real entrance exam, and he was given another chance this year.

Just like Heike he is one of the 41 candidates chosen.

During the final examination the examiners pay particular attention to the criteria given a poor rating in the preliminary audition.

Emphasis is placed on scenic presentation in improvised roles.

The 41 candidates are split up into three groups and confronted with various situations.

They are asked, for example, to imagine that they are standing outside and it starts to drizzle.

Some of the candidates show displeasure, whereas others welcome the imaginary rain.

"It's now raining harder," says the director. The candidates start moving around much faster, the faces look more tensed up, staring at the ground.

Then the director asks them to imagine that it is absolutely pouring down with rain. The "drenched" applicants start pulling their shirts over their heads and running towards some kind of shelter which they never reach.

"Right, it's stopped raining," says the director, "and you take a hot shower."

All the candidates try to play this scene as realistically as possible, some of them even stripping off all their clothes.

The members of the group try to enjoy the imagined warm water, acting as if they are lathering themselves or washing their hair.

They are then told to dry themselves and get dressed. "Everyone fresh and clean?" the head of the commission asks smugly.

In the next improvised scene the candidates are asked to imagine that an examinee has lost his way and ended up in a dungeon from which there is no escape.

The reason given for this improvisation was as follows: "Perhaps you don't know what it's like in there. In the theatre, however, you sometimes have to die every evening and you've never died before."

The candidates start raging in their prison, which consists of three wardrobes arranged in such a way that the commission can see what's going on inside.

Some start hammering on the walls with their fists or crying out: "You bastards! Get me out of here! I don't want to die! Heeeelp!!!"

Borderline cases are asked to do the raft scene. Standing on a wardrode which has been placed on the ground they try to imagine that they have been shipwrecked without food and water for three days and that they see a ship sailing past on the horizon.

Try as hard as they can many candidates are unable to cry or look exhausted enough for this role.

One of them described his helplessness after the examination as follows: "There was plenty of situation, but I couldn't make enough of it."

Sometimes there is an oppressive intimacy. Rarely are people so frank as during this examination, where they have to act, shout and rage for their future.

Doubts have been cast on the examination procedure.

The 21 examination criteria only ensure an apparent objectivity, which noone can prove. This is indicated by the often conflicting assessments of the examiners.

In the final analysis, the key factors are the eroticism and charisma of the candidates, the experience of the examiners and their sense of responsibility.

They don't want to train actors whose personality seems likely to stand in the way of their job prospects or who cannot face up to the strain of everyday life in the theatre.

One thing is certain, the examiners' task is no easy one.

Professor Martin Häupl, responsible for the scenic activities of the HdK, comments frankly on the examination procedure:

"It's what I hate most about my job, since I know that we have to be unfair. No-one can judge objectively whether one or the other of 300 or so applicants is talented or not."

This summer semester eleven actor students will enrol at the HdK.

Bernhard, who has his sights set on the job of director, will be one of them. Heike, who was unable to control her nervousness and often broke down in tears during the final examination, didn't quite make it this time.

Henning Richter

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 9 July 1988)

■ EXHIBITIONS

Well, I'll be blowed! Glass items survive almost 2,000 years



Cologne's Germano-Roman museum is exhibiting its own magnificent Roman glass items along with contributions from the British Museum and the Corning Glass Museum in New York from the period 100 B.C. to 600 A.D.

The museums have three of the most important public collections in the world. But Cologne is hoping it can get even more pieces from other American and European collections.

The public is more likely to associate splendour with gold or silver than glass. It's a useful material which we have taken for granted for centuries. We only become aware of it and its fragility when we break a favourite piece.

The wonder of the exhibition,called Glass of the Caesars, is that the 160 pieces on show have survived the centuries intact.

The exhibition is going on show in Rome after its stint in Cologne. This is acknowledgment to Rome of the exhibition's theme of Rome's ancient empire and the epoch of Augustus Caesar. The Pax Romana epoch began with Augustus. It was a time of peace and economic prosperity. Artists and craftsmen produced luxury goods such as decorated glass

The exhibition shows how easily glass takes on shape. Glass is made of quartz sand, lime, metal oxides and soda. Augustus' Rome took up a Syrian and Iraqi invention which made glass easier to produce. The new method was to use a metal pipe to blow glass into shape. This improved on a traditional method of casting with sand molds or hollowing out and grinding.

The glass blowing method is still used today. Glass blowing had immediate success in Augustus' Rome where craftsman turned out beautiful shimmering works of art. The Cologne museum has chronologically arranged many fine examples of the varied decoration techniques.

Visitors can see a five centimetre high figure of Augustus with idealised youthful features. The minature is one of 230 preserved sculpted caesarian portraits. It is made of opaque, turquoise flashed glass.

The piece is supposed to come from Italy. It's one of the items in the museum [illegible] found at the Colonia Agrippinensis site in Cologne. The old Roman settlement was an important glass centre. Which explains the museum's own immense Roman glass collection.

The British Museum has lent an 1876 copy of its legendary Portland vase. The original was damaged twice. So was the copy. The glasswork artist worked for three years on the copy before before it was damaged. Just like the original was broken twice after its discovery.

The Portland vase has mythological figured reliefs which to this day have not been fully explained. The vase belongs to the cameo-glass group of the Augustinian age. The craftsmen forced dark blue glass into opaque white glass. They were both blown out together. The mixture cooled off with the white layer on top. Craftsman carved a decor frieze into it. The result is hypnotic. The technique gave this vase a particular mysterious charisma .

The vase was found in the 17th century in a sepulchre near Rome. Archaeologists knew of the grave's existence in the 16th century. The vase captured the imagination of many prominent people such as cardinals, royalty and tourists such as the painter Peter Paul Rubens.

The vase made its way via Sir William Hamilton into the ownership of the Duke of Portland.

Josiah Wedgwood reproduced the vase and it became in the 18th century a prototype for imitations of buildings and antiquities of the classical world and an embodiment of a conception of nature.

The mystical urn with its mysterious sensual portrayal of characters became an admired allegory of life and death.

One should not allow the history of the vase to distract one from the other original cameo glasses. The 30 centimetre high Amphora with its Cupids at wine harvest and the Pompeiian Ariadne plate.

Whoever experiences such eternally charming aesthetically perfect ancient glass art — cups, wine goblets, soap dishes, cosmetic dishes — is reliving 600 years of a sophisticated glass culture.

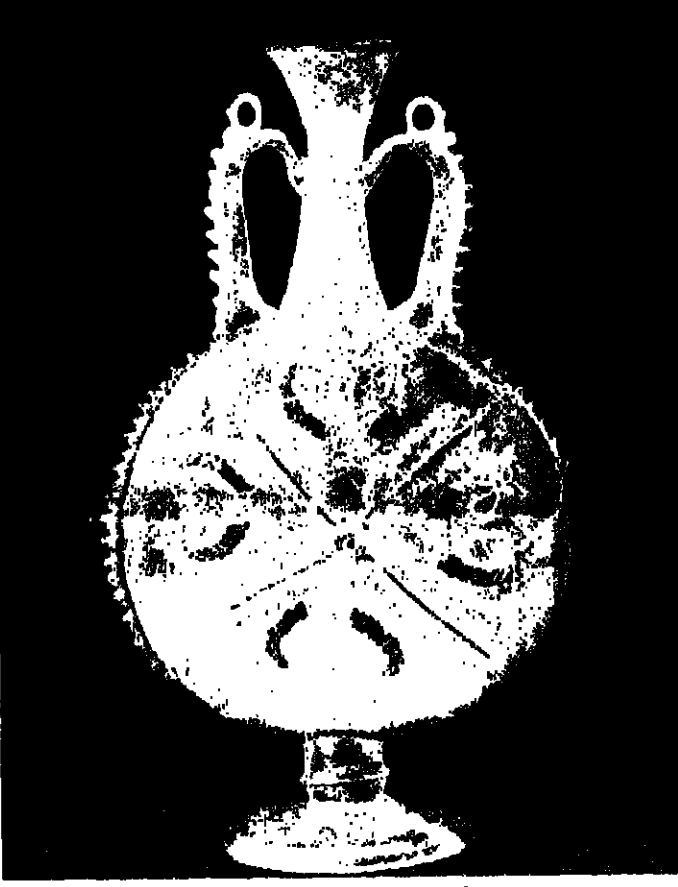
The Diatret glasses of the third and fourth century A.D. were the culture's last climax and the beginning of its decline. The glasses were named after Roman craftsmen — a privileged class of worker who paid no taxes but had to take care of the training of young talent.

The type of Diatret glasses on display in Cologne are carved reliefs. According to the catologue, the artists worked reliefs so skillfully that they were able to connect them to the glass body with just a minute pin.

Lord Rothschild's 16 centimetre high Lykurgos cup, on loan from the British museum, is the exhibition's most famous object. A brim and a foot of gilded bronze were added to it in the 19th century. This miraculous work dates from the fourth century A.D. Its origin is unknown. King Lykurgos is on the relief-frieze bringing Dionysius death with a vine tendril. Pan and Satyr witness the deed. If the light is dull the scene is in green. Stronger light steeps the scene in red and violet. The museum's technology lets you see both without making the cup look garish. Glass of the Caesars exhibition is so noble it upstages itself.

Ursula Bode

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 8 July 1988)



A survivor of the centuries.
(Photo: Römisch-Germanisches Museum Köln)

Suleiman the Great finally makes it to Berlin

In 1525 the Turks reached the walls of Vienna and threatened to overrun Christendom. But the Turkish army was repulsed.

In more recent times, Turkish Islam and European Christendom have come into direct contact again — through the Turkish *Gastarbeiter*, or guest workers.

In Berlin alone there are 200,000 Turks, which makes Berlin one of the biggest Turkish cities. Unfortunately, Turks and Germans in Germany do not mix a lot. Europeans are suspicious and uninformed about Turkish culture.

This summer Berlin is host to an exhibition of Turkish art from the Ottomann empire. The exhibition is a great opportunity for Germans and Turks living in Germany to discover the glories of the Ottoman culture. It might help to improve relations between the two communities.

Blue lamps have been illuminating Berlin's Charlottenburg Palace for four weeks with oriental light. It reveals treasures from the Tokapi Serail in Istanbul. Tokapi was the home and centre of government of Suleiman the Great — the most important of all the sultans. His subjects called him the law maker. Europeans called him the magnigificient.

He was apparently a monarch in the same vein as Emperor Charles the V, Francis the I of France, Henry VIII and Ivan the Terrible. Like them he would do anything to grab and hold on to power.

But he was more than that. The exhibition shows that in many respects he was superior to his European counterparts. He was educated in the science of his day. In keeping with the Ottoman tradition he learned a skill. He chose to become a goldsmith. He was well read and wrote poetry. He gave Turkey a model administration and laws. He forced captured Christian children and adolescents into his army and civil service and went on to build a land and sea Empire which stretched from the Danube to the Nile and from Gibraltar to Persia.

Contemporary Venetian wood engravings depicted him as a renaissance prince. His sharp, severe face, mounted with an enormous turban both impressive and strange.

Turkish chronicles show him on his throne in oriental dress surrounded by royal household, generals and Christian Vassals.

The emperor's personality is the exhibition's main attraction. The museum has divided objects according to different themes which explain the influence of his style of government on art, crafts and architecture.

Right at the entrance, the visitor is confronted by an huge curvaceous Tughra — the artistic leitmotiv of the exhibition. This calligraphic emblem was a symbol of his rule. It was stamped on legal documents and shows how

Continued on page 14

A contemporary depiction of Suleiman on the march. (Photo: Catalogue)

■ HAMBURG FIREMEN VISIT CHERNOBYL

Soviet fire chiefs Dezyatnikov and Melnikov reconstruct the horror

Two Hamburg firemen have been taken on a tour of Chernobyl, 14 months after the reactor disaster. The visit had its origins in a letter sent at the time of the catastrophe by a senior Hamburg fireman to Soviet Party chief Mikhail Gorbachov in which material help was offered to the firemen of Chernobyl. Thomas Vinsor Wolgast reports for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Hamburg firemen Maximilian Puchner and Wolfgang Stein at first noticed nothing unusual in the no-go zone within 30 kilometres of Chernobyl.

The ground they were drive over was covered in grass and low-lying undergrowth, much like other parts of the Ukraine that were not hit by radioactive fallout. Birds sang cheerfully.

Puchner, deputy head of the Hamburg brigade (Colonel Puchner to the Russians, who run their fire service along military lines), and "Captain" Stein, his public relations officer, saw no signs of gigantic plants as a result of genetic mutation.

They were told that an extensive greenhouse had been set up after the 26 April 1986 Chernobyl reactor meltdown to test how plants grew and bred in contaminated soil.

No unusual findings had yet been reported, but experiments were still in progress. They saw number four reactor, scene of the most serious disaster in the history of atoms for peace, and saw for themselves the "Red Forest."

It now consists of a solitary red remnant of a fir tree, a stump that was left to stand as a symbol of the destructive power of radioactive heat and contamination.

This used to be the site of thousands of fine fir trees with healthy green needles. They were laid waste in the inferno that was Chernobyl, leaving strange, haggard, bright red tree trunks.

They were felled — all except this one — to rule out any risk of a forest fire.

Puchner and Stein were the first Western firemen to be allowed within the 30km "no-go" zone to see Chernobyl for themselves.

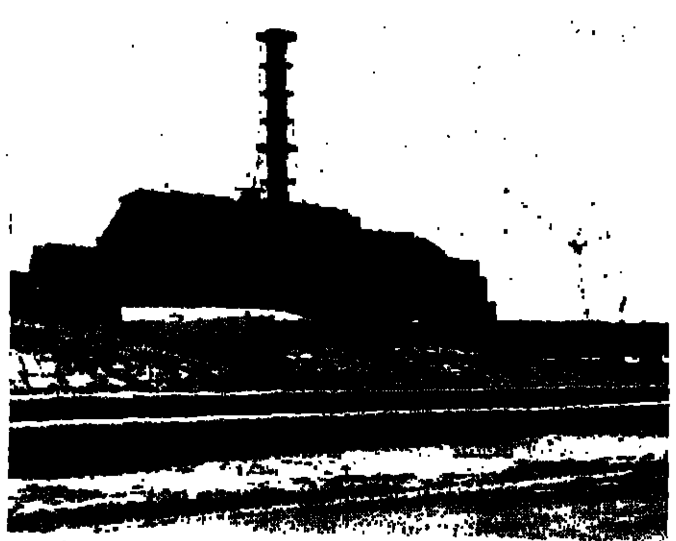
They spent a week in the Ukraine as guests of their Soviet colleagues and were, as Puchner put it, "deeply impressed by the work put in by the Chernobyl firemen" — and by the hospitality they were given.

This unusual tour of what must surely have been the most dangerous mission firemen have handled since the war originated with a letter written by a senior Hamburg fireman to Mr Gorbachov in the Kremlin in the aftermath of the disaster.

It was a spontaneous offer of material assistance to the Chernobyl firemen and their families, addressed to the Kremlin in the hope that it would reach the men and women for whom it was meant. In September 1987 General Philip N. Dezyatnikov, commanding officer of the 60,000 firemen in the Ukraine, and Captain Viktor F. Melnikov, head of a fire brigade unit that fought the Chernobyl blaze, visited Hamburg for the presentation of a cheque for DM26,000, the sum collected by Hamburg firemen. The two Russians were unusually frank about what had happened in Chernobyl and their work there. Red-hot parts from the active part of the reactor and splinters from the graphite wall surrounding it had been catapulted sky-high through the ruined reactor shield, General Dezyatnikov said. "The red-hot splinters fell on the roof of the power block, the ventilation plant and the roof of the machine room. There were over 30 fires, and massive radiation made the sky flicker eerily."



Praise for Soviet firefighters: Hamburg firemen Puchner (left) and Stein talk to Press at Chernobyl. Interpreter is between them.



Tombstone for a nuclear power station: Chernobyl's number four reactor. (Photos: Wolfgang Stein)

Puchner and Stein saw for themselves Fire Station No. 2, from where the 14 men on duty launched the first "attack" on the flaming inferno minutes after the alarm was given.

It is only about 400 metres from number four reactor. The 14 were soon joined by firemen from Pripyat, a town a mile and a half away.

The first 28 firemen include the six who died. When the last flames were quenched at 5 a.m. on 26 April, leaving only the reactor core aglow, there were 240 firemen at work.

Some were from as far afield as Kiev, 100 miles away. Puchner feels the work put in by his Soviet colleagues at the height of the disaster cannot be valued highly enough.

If they had not risked their lives (and they were well aware of the fallout threat) to put the fires out "the other three reactor blocks would probably also have been destroyed, with the most appalling consequences for Europe and, maybe, the whole world."

General Dezyatnikov was subjected to 28 röntgens of radioactivity, Captain Melnikov to 58 röntgens (he was hospitalised for nearly six weeks for treatment).

The two Soviet firemen who had visited Hamburg showed the Hamburg firemen round Chernobyl. The visitors laid a wreath at the memorial to the dead firemen in Kiev.

They also met the sole survivor of the men who fought the fire on the roof of the reactor building.

Hero of the Soviet Union Telyatnikov had his hair pulled by General Dezyatnikov — to show it was his own despite the high dose of radiation to which he had been subjected.

The day trip to Chernobyl was the most exciting part of the visit. On the perimeter of the 30km zone a housing area has been set up for the 4,000 workers who man the three remaining reactors. They have long been back in use.

The men live in simple quarters, with extensive parking lots, sports facilities, a cinema and swimming baths. But their families are not allowed to live with them.

A turnpike limits access to the "no-go" zone. The workers pass it daily on their way to work; on their way back they are checked with geiger counters to make sure they are safe.

Roads and paths within the "no-go" zone have been decontaminated. Dust clouds are regularly sprayed by water trucks.

Pripyat, where 30,000 people used to live, is a "ghost town." They and a further 70,000 people who lived in the "no-go" area were evacuated.

"The buildings looked as though they had just been vacated," Puchner says. "Curtains blow through the windows and doors slam in the wind."

Reactor number four does not look as though its reactor core was still glowing at a temperature of over 1,000° C.

It has been clad in cement using remote-controlled construction machinery, some of which was supplied by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The burning core was sealed off with lead, clay and sand.

Reactor No. 4 at Chernobyl today, Puchner says, looks like a gigantic coffin, but it is still alive inside, and dangerously so.

Thomas Vinsor Wolgast

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 July 1988)

■ HEALTH

Findings challenge Freud's explanation about why children have dreams

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Sigmund Freud said children's dreams reflected the fulfilment of (secret) wishes, emphasising the pleasure principle and bereft of the cover-ups and repression of the adult mind.

Recent extensive research has shown he was much mistaken on this point, if not on others. Children have been asked about dreams that had a lasting effect on them.

Writing about his findings in the May issue of *Psychotherapie und medizinische Psychologie*, Munich psychologist Franz Strunz says motifs which might, in the widest sense of the term, be classified as pleasure-orientated wish fulfilment evidently occur in less than half the cases covered.

Children's nocturnal fantasies are much more often accompanied by unpleasant feelings. They report feeling ill at ease in between 56 and 79 per cent of cases.

Children have nightmares in which they are threatened in all manner of ways, by animals, thieves, murderers, housebreakers, disaster, death or persons unknown.

Most are paralysed with fear and can do no more than wait until it is all over. It is years before they learn to stand up for themselves a little in their dreams.

Nightmares are thus a normal part of childhood, Strunz says. This is a line of argument on which views differ.

In unfavourable circumstances or conditions they may constantly recur, taking their toll on the quality of sleep of both children and parents.

Recent findings indicate that as many as one in three seemingly normal children suffer from constantly recurring bad dreams.

Recurring good dreams are as unusual in childhood as in later life.

With striking frequency children in their nocturnal hallucinations have unwelcome encounters with some animal or other.

The percentage of dreams in which animals (good or bad) occur declines from 40 to seven between the age of four and adulthood.

Boys dream most frequently about animals between four and six; girls do so between nine and eleven.

Little imagination is needed to infer that these animal dreams symbolise children's untamed impulses or conflict with the constraints of education.

Thirty-four per cent of animals that feature in children's dreams, and boys' dreams in particular, are wild and dangerous — snakes, lions, tigers, monsters.

Boys more frequently have nightmares about species remote from our own, such as reptiles, whereas girls tend to dream about mammals.

The more animals there are in children's dreams, the sooner they end — usually with the children waking up.

The more zoological the dreams are, the more they tend to reflect feelings of aggression, uneasiness, anxiety, stress and failure. Animals very seldom occur in a pleasurable dream context.

Even when animals do not occur in their dreams, children still fall foul of aggression in their nightmares.

They are usually attacked by other people, mostly men. These nightmares have long been attributed to horror stories and, latterly, to TV and video violence.

Strunz says this is not the case. There is no scientific proof that consumption of media violence leads to an increase in the number of nightmares or bad dreams.

In adulthood anxiety, displeasure or the feeling of being a helpless victim are three to four times more frequent in dreams than more pleasant sensations.

The inference that must inevitably be drawn is that the sensations of fear that are so typical of our dreams reflect a fundamental feeling of human insecurity.

Views differ as to whether babies or even the foetus in the womb is capable of dreaming.

The human foetus spends 50 per cent of its sleep (and sleep takes up most of its time) in the REM, or rapid eye movement, and heightened brain activity status that is typical of adults who are dreaming.

In the first three years of life this REM percentage declines by half, then continues to decline more slowly until old age.

Yet many scientists say neither the foetus nor the baby is able to dream. They feel the ability depends on the faculty of speech and on a conscious, deliberate familiarity with meanings and symbols.

Babies are said to be unable to meaningfully associate their perceptions in any way.

This view is not shared by animal specialists who claim the facial expressions, vocal utterances and body movements of dogs and cats show that they really have dreams.

Strunz agrees that REM phases registered in living creatures unable to speak must not necessarily be classified as devoid of content.

Every living creature with faculties of memory and perception is probably capable of re-experiencing them in the nocturnal imagery of dreams.

Until the age of six, incidentally, children are convinced that what they see in their dreams is really there in the room and seen with their naked eye.

Not until the age of nine do they come to feel that dreams are "in the mind" and not external phenomena, that man has a "mind's eye."

By the age of 11 all children are convinced that dreams have no real, material basis.

So there is little point in consoling children under nine who have nightmares that it is "only a dream."

When consolation and reassurance are neded it is, Strunz says, better to console and reassure worried children in other, simpler ways.

Rolf Degen

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 30 June 1988)



Lobe probe. (Photo: Bernd Krug)

Acupuncture claimed to help women become pregnant

An estimated 10 to 15 per cent of German couples hope in vain to have children. Where women are "to blame," hormone and mental factors are the chief causes.

Hormone treatment can help some of them, but it has substantial side-effects and the hormone metabolism is often stabilised for only a brief period.

For several years acupuncture has successfully been used at the maternity clinic of Heidelberg University Hospital to help women with hormone trouble to have children.

All the women who underwent acupuncture had previously tried hormone treatment in vain. Acupuncture was advised as almost a last resort.

Auricular therapy, or acupuncture of the ear, is the main approach. Several points in the ear play a leading role in stabilising the hormone metabolism.

Twenty-seven women aged between 24 and 38 underwent acupuncture at the Heidelberg clinic between 1984 and 1986. They had wanted to have children for between two and 12 years.

They attended weekly sessions at the clinic. Six needles per session were inserted at various points in their ears and left for half an hour.

The course of treatment took three months.

Ingrid Gerhard, the Heidelberg gynaecologist who introduced the treatment, says it is extremely time-consuming for both doctor and patient.

Treatment as a rule takes an hour per session, including preliminary tests.

Its advantage over hormone treatment is that it has absolutely no side-effects, whereas hormone injections can lead to patients putting on weight, having trouble with their eyesight and giving birth to twins, triplets, quads or quins.

Dr Gerhard says acupuncture generally has a beneficial effect on the women's general sense of well-being. Their physical imbalance is rectified, including other upsets due to hormone trouble.

Not all women respond equally well to acupuncture, but patients whose menstrual cycle is upset and are not menstruating respond as well to acupuncture as they do to hormone treatment.

Acupuncture patients with menstrual irregularities were compared with a corresponding group of patients who were given hormone treatment.

Forty-seven per cent of acupuncture patients and 50 per cent of hormone patients responded to treatment and became pregnant.

Patients suffering from yellow-body, or corpus luteum hormone, insufficiency responded equally poorly to both courses of treatment.

This hormone controls the nesting of the fertilised ovum in the womb. Success rates of roughly 22 per cent were reported for both categories of treatment.

Sterile men are now to undergo acupuncture in a further series of trials, research scientists in Vienna having reported promising findings.

There is a long waiting-list for acupuncture treatment at the Heidelberg clinic. "We haven't the capacity to handle all the women who apply for treatment," Dr Gerhard says.

Ingeborg Bördlein

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 June 1988)

Social Democrats capitalise

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cal policy its main issue during the 1990 general election campaign.

As in 1983, when its "missiles campaign" completely misinterpreted what the voters wanted, and in 1987, when the voters showed their unwillingness to accept the SPD's about-turn over nuclear energy, this approach could backfire.

Voters have become much more critical, responding more sensitively to contradictions and any opportunist currying of favour. Just criticising the political opponent is no longer enough.

Anyone who, like the SPD, condemns the Bonn government's activities lock, stock and barrel in such a key field as economic and fiscal policy must provide a real alternative. Is it clear what the SPD would do if elected or who would call the tune, Wolfgang Roth, Hans Apel, Friedhelm Farthmann or Oskar Lafontaine?

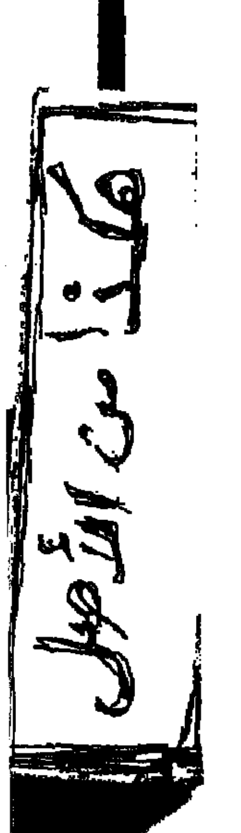
And has the idea of a supplementary income tax for higher-income earners really been dropped altogether — or merely shelved until the next financial jam?

In particular the promotion-minded skilled workers, whose votes the SDP needs if it is to stand a chance of getting a majority, want greater clarity.

Just hoping that political rivals will still be stuck in the doldrums when the general election comes round is not enough to get back into government.

Wolfgang Bolm

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 15 July 1988)



■ HORIZONS

1974 World Cup soccer championship blamed for rise of the street mugger

Soccer, or football, as it is more widely known, is under attack for the hooliganism it attracts. Now the game is getting it in the neck again. Some Frankfurt policemen are blaming it for the descent of a once almost respectable art of theft, pick-pocketing, into a crude, often-violent process. The policemen are even specific: the 1974 World Cup in Germany attracted thieves from Slav areas who did not have the same "noble" traditions of their brother crooks in the West. And so the era of the ever-so-softly, unobserved finger has given way to the snatch and the wrench. The story, which appeared in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, was written by Herbert Lammert.

The gentleman pick-pocket is a relic of the past. He had a code of honour; his aim was to steal without being noticed. And he often took the money and returned unwanted papers to the owners.

Purses and bags are still being stolen, of course. Last year, 1,000 bags were snatched alone in Frankfurt's main shopping street, Zeil. About 7,000 were stolen in the metropolitan area. And 2,170 wallets and purses were lifted from pockets.

Richard Heinecke is a senior detective who has spent the past 15 years chasing this sort of thief. He reckons that this year, the figure for wallets and purses will reach 3,000 — already, the figure at the end of May was 1,220.

Heinecke knows that for every theft reported, 10 others go unreported. The victims believe there is no chance of getting their property back.

Heinecke disagrees. He regards every theft notification as useful information. It may show a change of pattern or that a thief has moved into a new area — and says that patterns are important in a trade where thieves work to a pattern.

In the Middle Ages, thieves used to cut bags containing gold coins from the owner's belt. (The term *Beutelschneider* still means pick-pocket or swindler in German.)

But techniques became more refined, especially directly after the turn of the century. The story goes that in Palermo or Seville, criminals actually went to school to learn the art of theft. They practised on life-sized dolls.

Slow learners were discouraged — sometimes a careless move would be rewarded when the hand ran along a strategically placed razor blade edge.

By contrast, the brand of thief who preys today wherever people gather, at railway stations, airports, big stores and trade fairs, is a pretty base character, more of a throwback to the good old days.

Whereas the pick-pocket took pride in his skill at cutting open a purse or cutting a watch free from its strap with an unobserved hand containing a razor blade, his crude successor is more likely to snatch the purse from an old lady in a park.

As for any code of honour — that now belongs only to the romantic past. But recent past. Up until even about 10 years ago, some victims who were relieved of their cash would still find their identification papers and other unwanted papers such as driving licence deposited the next day in their letter box. A pick pocket was too proud to use force. He disliked it as much as he disliked an empty purse.

Some policemen say they know precisely when the art of thievery became more brutal (in Frankfurt at least): 1974. That was the year the world soccer championship took place for the first time in Germany. Matches were played in Frankfurt.

People came from all over the world. So did thieves. Many of the latter came from Slav regions, according to the statistics. Their apprenticeships had not taught them the finer points of their craft; their methods were those of the bludgeon rather than the scalpel. But they were, however nasty, also effective and set a trend that continues to this day.

There are various approaches. Take one: a crowded platform at a railway station. The train pulls in. People jostle forwards towards the carriages. One door is blocked by a man. He is one of a team of three. As the pushing and shoving commuters protest, the second thief pushes and shoves as much as anybody and, in the confusion, takes a wallet from a back pocket or snatch a purse from a hand.

The modern thief follows the growing throngs of tourists. And here it is the South Americans who have revealed a talent for organisation that would make managers in industry green with envy.

They send young people from the slums of Santiago or Bogota with stolen air tickets. They arrive at certain hotels and are given false passports and stolen travellers cheques and credit cards. They dress in expensive suits so they do not stand out in hotel receptions, airports and trade fairs.

Their methods are simple and effective. In hotels, one diverts the attention of a guest by asking the time or knocking over an ashtray while a second escapes with the briefcase.

They use take advantage of the readiness of people to help others. One thief picks out a potential victim somewhere in a queue and drops a coin in front of him. The victim places his bag on the ground and bends to pick up the coin. The second thief makes off with the bag. In such a way, an Iranian businessman is said to have lost a briefcase containing 73,000 marks.

Detective Heinecke says that usually three people are involved. The third keeps an eye out for the police.

Between 500 and 1,000 marks a day is a good average take for such teams. Stolen papers are sent to forgers in Germany, Italy or Spain. Cheques are usually *sent to* Italy, Spain or the south of France.

There is still a tradition of learning. The South American youngsters first have their techniques polished up in southern Europe.

The evolution of new methods means that the police are often overtaxed, although at least in Frankfurt, 40 per cent of thieves are caught. The police concentrate on the airport, the big stores and tourist traps where many a photographing Japanese, for example, has reported the loss of something of value which he put down beside him during the big creative moment.

Hermann Lammert

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 July 1988)

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much he valued calligraphy, ornament and court style.

The emblem is a symmetrical wickerwork of flowers and tendrils. It was chosen because it lends a touch of magnificence to illuminated manuscripts, Koran bindings and covers, gold work, carpets, white-blue delphware from Isnik, swords and daggers — which influenced the emperor's lifestyle.

The Sultan was a collector. He accumulated lots of domestic and foreign works of art. He liked to show them off too. He had precious ceromonial canisters carried before him at processions. The art is proves he had eclectical taste. He invited artists from Europe and Asia to his court where their influences merged into a new style.

One of the main pieces on display is the magnificent emerald and diamond studded dagger. It was originally intended to be a present for the Persian king. It has left Tokapi for the first time.

Suleiman the Great has finally made it to Berlin. It is a visit and exchange of culture which can only benefit Germans and Turks.

Barbara Gaehtgens

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 8 July 1988)

Art robberies: framed, he told the police

Art robberies make the headlines. Yet they often don't make a great deal of sense. Works of art are often hard to offload.

Perhaps the person behind the robbery is flipped-out collector. Perhaps sometimes, blackmail is involved. Or perhaps longer-term interests are the aim.

When such a piece remains missing for a long time, the art world doesn't make a great noise for ever and a day. And it is not only occasionally that a work turns up again without the thieves profiting.

Much more profitable are thefts which create only localised outcries. The extent of this sort of crime is statistically high, up in the same bracket as drug dealing and weapons handling.

The BKA (equivalent to the FBI or the CID) in Wiesbaden has 70,000 works of art registered that have been stolen either inside Germany or outside. This figure includes 30,000 paintings. Five years ago, the respective figures were 50,000 and 20,000.

And it is clear that this is only the tip of the iceberg. The file lumps together as art works everything that is desirable and expensive: furniture, porcelain, clocks, silver, tin, antique weapons, carpets, tapestries, holy figures, and sacred items.

They come from museums and other public collections and from palaces, churches, shops, galleries and, above all, from private ownership. A BKA spokesman said the rate of burglary into villas' and homes remained undiminished.

Thefts of works of art fall mostly into the sphere of local police forces. They inform the BKA (a nation-wide organisation) whose job is to collect and pass on information. It only takes up a case itself in isolated instances.

Local police have special departments for art thefts — but which also handle other types of crime. The relevant department in West Berlin is also responsible for investigating petty pick-pocketing and confidence tricksters. There are only a few cases of art thefts, but Peter Kopmann, the head of the department, says they create the most work.

That work begins with the classification. The Berlin department calls in a special squad in particularly big cases, although, says Kopmann, that has not happened since the 70s.

He tells about a case to illustrate the laid-back approach that often exists towards this sort of crime. It was where a painting was, through a tortuous path, returned to a museum. The police did not find out officially — and when they did find out, it was only afterwards when the museum director mentioned it in passing when he was at the police station on other business.

The Berlin police have two specialist areas. One involves thefts and the East Germany is involved. The other is icons from East Bloc countries. "They often create enormous problems," says Kopmann.

It has become clear that exile Russians are heavily involved — both as criminals and as victims. Where do the stolen goods go to? The BKA have found that many are sold to fences for only a fraction of the value. But often, thieves try to sell them through legal dealers or through auction houses. The explanation is that the work has been inherited or is being sold "in emergency."

Luck is needed because the most important stolen pieces are known to the art world.

The BKA knows of only rare cases of thefts to order. But, as one officer said, "direct evidence is difficult to get."

On the other hand, business across the German-German border is not uncommon. It mostly involves individuals and small groups capable of operating swiftly and flexibly.

Police tactics have been changed by the new international relationship: the more liberal travel, business and currency regulations in the European Community. Interpol now follow up investigations into many stolen works of art across international borders.

Twice a year, the "six most-wanted works of art" are published along with the usual mug shots of wanted persons.

The BKA says that publication of details about stolen articles help a lot, especially in specialist publications. The better the photographs and the more accurate the description the better.

Owners of valuable works of art cannot take too seriously police recommendations to have their objects professionally photographed and described professionally.

Advice is given on technical security and other factors — without risk of any information being passed on to third parties such as the tax department, they say.

Heinrich König

(Die Welt, Bonn, 2 July 1988)

■ FRONTIERS

Learning how to think: children hot on the trail of Socrates

German schoolchildren are discovering Socrates and his philosophising methods. Up to now education has tended to stifle children's curiosity. Only later when they read philosophers or experience personal setbacks do they start wondering about life.

Barbara Brüning came up with the idea of introducing children to philosophy. She has a doctorate in philosophy. Every fortnight she meets with 10 children in a book-filled basement in the Hamburg suburb of Langenhorn.

They discuss time, justice and whether the moon can talk. Adult observers find that children look at concepts in a different way.

I listened in to the group to make my own assessment. I listened closely to the girls Antje, Nadine, Sanna and Simone and the boys Frederik and Patrick. Antje told Nadine that Momo — a childrens' film character — is giving back time to people. Later on Frederik said, "I don't understand time." Patrick said, "Time is a clock." Sanna said, "you can touch a clock but you cannot touch time." Patrick said he meant time rotates in a clock. Simone said, "That's not time. That's just the hands of a clock."

Mrs Brüning is the only adult involved. She interferes only if the conversation comes to a standstill. She then tries to revive the discussion by rephrasing the question or by adding momentum.

"Children have a right to learn how to question. Schools make them answer. They don't have the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of questions," she said.

Of course, she added: "They don't read Kant or Hegel. But in the end all philosophy arrives at the same questions and problems."

She realised this when she was at university. During the day she sat with students pondering the "right" questions. Later at home her children deafened her with the same questions.

The childrens' philosophical group has been meeting for four years. The children are now aged between 10 and 12. "The children have learnt how to discuss, how to distinguish good reasons from bad ones and to clarify ideas."

She hit upon the idea of a childrens' philosophy group after she heard her children arguing. The children asked her to umpire the dispute. Instead, she offered to discuss the issue with them. To her surprise they were delighted.

They discussed justice for several hours. The children made her promise to have more discussions like that. She selected appropriate texts, songs and stories. The first German philosophy group for children was born.

Because there are so few suitable texts, Dr Brüning founded the *Publishing House for Children and Parents*. She published pictures, poems and cassettes, which are suitable for making children think.

Maria Beimel is another philosopher involved with parents and children. She is chairperson of a discussion group for children and parents which she runs together with Brüning. She also cultivates cooperation between teachers and university professors.

She has been running a "philosophising" childrens group for a year. "The interest toddlers have in classical philosophical themes is amazing. The word philosophising is justified by the themes which we discuss and the by the Socratic method of the instructor," she said.

Socrates came up with his method about 2,000 years ago. He asked a series of simple questions revealing to his interlocutors their own ignorance. At the beginning of this century, Leonard Nelson, professor of philosophy at Göttingen university used it for teaching.

Professor Ekkehard Martens of Hamburg university's pedagogics department said the Socratic method much knowledge and potential lies dormant in adults brains. If children were taught how to think early enough this wastage could be avoided in later like. He came across Nelson's Socratic method in America where it was being used to help adults and brought it back to Germany.

"We are in a rationality crisis. Technology has opened all doors it's doors to us. But we need creativity in order to be able to exploit its potential."

Management creativity courses and courses in formal logic have become popular. Martens said the courses start too late. Infancy is the ideal stage with its natural abilities for wonder, questioning and logical thinking.

Martens has been a pedagogical pioneer in Germany. Since 1979 he has been lecturing on child philosophy. However the subject is looked upon as somewhat esoteric. federal schools have not shown much interest.

Reluctance

Even after education ministers recognised philosophy as a subject in 1972, the *Länder* were reluctant put it on curricula. It's now an optional subject in grammar schools all over Germany.

But student demand is low and there is a shortage of qualified teachers. Bremen offers only one *Leistungskurs* examination. Hesse has 350 students in the 11th class taking it (less than two per cent). The 12th class has 2.2 per cent and the 13th 2.7 per cent participation.

Most *Länder* offer ethics as an alternative to religious instruction. However the teachers are not philosophy graduates — instead they have takenb extra courses in philosophy.

Martens would ideally prefer to see teachers with philosophy degrees teaching the subject. "Philosophy teachers should deal with philosophical questions in schools. Children should learn to follow questions to their logical conclusions," he said.

Brüning and Beimel's lessons should help pupils to grow into self-confident, responsible and reasonable individuals. The main obstacle is not so much the practical work as defending the subject from external attack. When both women talk of their project they usually have to defend it against the theories of the Swiss psychologist, Jean Piaget.

Piaget has a theory which divides childhood into three phases. The second phase is from the second to the 12th year. The world is experienced through activity. The third phase, independent of objects and activities, he can relate events to each other.

But Langenhorn contradict Piaget. They discuss justice a lot earlier. They compare stretches of time, they meditate on who they are.

Barbara Brüning says Piaget is obsolete. Even Berlin university professor, Hans-Ludwig Freese, who, supported by the federal ministry for education and science, philosophises with gifted students, has his doubts about Piaget. The phase theory, he says, contradicts empirical evidence.

Freese reads texts in his courses and discusses the philosophical content with the children. "It's not my intention to impart knowledge. I aim to give the children a sense of adventure."

Freese became interested in the philosophical thought courses because the courses for the gifted such as computers and Egyptology were top heavy with males. The philosophy courses had equal representation of both sexes.

In his Saturday course Freese uses the book *Harry Stottlemeier's discovery*. Stottlemeier is a schoolboy who discovers formal logical thinking. He is the the brain-child of Matthew Lipman. He has introduced many American schools to formal logic.

Lipman used to lecture in philosophy at Colombia University in New York. He was disappointed at the intellectual limitations of his students. He ended his professorial career when he was fifty in 1974. Since then he has been writing books and working in teachers training.

Teachers come from all over the world to his living room, where he has his Institute for the advancement of philosophy for children. They come to listen to his theories on epistemology.

American colleagues also turn up for information. Many take it up and use them to link up disciplines in their schools.

Philosophy is kids stuff. That's the slogan of the new American pedagogics. In Hamburg, Berlin, Moers and Bauerbach, where the first experiments are taking place, one can also hear the slogan.

In Barbara Brüning's group, the children have become impatient, Sana, Simone, Nadine and Patrick want to know what time is. Come on tell us they cry.

Dr Brüning says: "It's now time to go home." The concept of time will cause them problems in future — in every respect.

Doris Cebulka

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 July 1988)